

Jordan Times

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QAIA to have tourist office

AMMAN (Petra) — A tourist information office will be opened at the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) on Saturday, according to a decision made by Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities and Acting Minister of Information Taher Hikmat. The acting director of the Tourism Authority, Mohammad Rafiq Al Laham, said Wednesday the office will be manned by employees of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, a policeman and representatives of the associations of hotel owners and travel and tourism agents. The office will provide tourists with all information they require including maps and pamphlets, he said. The office, which will be open 24 hours, will also help tourists on hotel reservations, he said. Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, and the Civil Aviation Authority helped establish the office, he said.

Iraq orders amnesty for fugitives

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) ordered an amnesty for all Iraqi fugitives from justice under a decree published Wednesday. The order covers members of banned political parties and groups who have "committed activities against the homeland and the revolution." It said people included in the amnesty must report to the authorities within 30 days from Feb. 11, while fugitives abroad should report to Iraqi embassies within 60 days. The order named the banned Al Daawa (The Call) group, which has been accused by the government of subversive activities, including bomb attacks against official buildings in the past few years. Al Daawa has been seeking Iranian-style Islamic fundamentalist rule in Iraq. The order did not name any other parties, but said it included all members of organisations and groups "which worked for the interest of Iran and regimes allied with it."

Bomb found at Cypriot firm trading with Israel

LIMASSOL (R) — Police defused a bomb Wednesday outside the offices of a shipping company trading with Israel, police sources said. A bag containing explosives was found Tuesday night outside the offices of the Shoham Company and police sealed off a section of the Limassol waterfront road. Shoham is a Cypriot-owned but trades with Israel. Four years ago, a man threw a hand-grenade into the Shoham offices, causing damage but no injuries.

Kaunda attacks U.S. policy on S. Africa

STOCKHOLM (R) — Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda Wednesday condemned U.S. policy towards South Africa and warned that it could lead to an explosion that would make the French revolution look like a picnic. Mr. Kaunda, on a two-day state visit to Sweden, told a news conference that only the West, and especially the United States, could ever disavow its policy in South Africa. He said that if the Reagan administration continued its policy of "constructive engagement" towards South Africa, Pretoria would only agree to cosmetic changes in its apartheid system of racial segregation.

18 killed in Sri Lankan clash

COLOMBO (R) — Four soldiers and 14 separatist guerrillas were killed in a fierce battle in a village on Sri Lanka's northeast coast, official sources said. The battle, which raged for more than five hours, started when a large group of guerrillas attacked a military detachment at Kokkila. They said. The guerrillas are fighting for a separate state for minority Tamils.

Top Turkish party activists acquitted

ANKARA (AP) — A martial law court on Wednesday acquitted the leaders of the now-defunct Muslim fundamentalist National Salvation Party on charges of attempting to set up an Islamic republic in Turkey. The acquittal of Necmettin Erbakan, a former deputy premier and chairman of the Salvation Party, and 22 other leaders of the party came after a retrial. In a first trial which ended in Feb. 1983, the court had sentenced Mr. Erbakan to four years in prison following a conviction for "anti-secular" activities.

Indian spy case judge gets armed guard

NEW DELHI (R) — The magistrate investigating a major Indian espionage scandal was given an armed guard Wednesday after receiving a death threat, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said. It said armed guards had been posted at the home of Bharat Bhushan and others accompanying him on his journey to work. Mr. Bhushan and the prosecution counsel in the case received death threats by letter Tuesday. PTI quoted the letter as saying Mr. Bhushan would be killed if he did not release suspects in the case.

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'Some progress' made in King-Arafat talks, Reagan says Hikmat: Jordan-PLO accord 'historic chance for U.S. action'

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on a "formula for common action" to revitalise the peace process has provided the United States with "an historic opportunity" to press for a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Acting Information Minister Taher Hikmat said Wednesday.

Mr. Hikmat, briefing two visiting U.S. congressmen (See page 2), said the agreement announced Monday was one of the several recent developments which "provide the United States the historic opportunity to intervene with all its weight to achieve a just settlement to secure Palestinian rights."

Mr. Hikmat, who is also Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, warned that "the continuation of the current situation (in the Middle East) would lead to great confrontations and would reflect negatively on stability and U.S. interests in the area," the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported.

The news agency quoted him as saying the recent positive developments included the U.S.-Soviet agreement to hold policy

level consultations on the Middle East and Jordan's call — supported by Arab countries — for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference with the participation of all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Kingdom's call was rejected by Israel and the United States which oppose the participation of the Soviet Union and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in any future Middle East peace talks.

U.S. officials recently argued that the participation of the Soviet Union in Middle East peace talks would be an "obstacle" and that it was "impossible" for the U.S. to reach an agreement with the Soviet Union on the Middle East.

The State Department announced Wednesday that U.S.

Soviet talks on Middle East will begin Tuesday. In Washington, President Reagan said Wednesday some progress has been made in talks this week between King Hussein and Mr. Arafat.

President Reagan, asked about the Jordanian-Palestinian accord as he left for a holiday in California, told reporters: "The little we know about it, it seems as if some progress had been made." He added: "We are being optimistic about it."

The American president, who completed talks Tuesday with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, that focused on the Middle East peace process, is to meet Egyptian President Mubarak next month and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid in April.

President Reagan's comments on the Amman agreement seemed to be more upbeat than the official reaction by the U.S. State Department Tuesday.

On Tuesday White House spokesmen gave a cautious endorsement to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement as President Reagan and King Fahd held talks on Middle East peace prospects.

"Any declared intention to pursue a peaceful settlement of the

Middle East conflict would be a constructive step," said spokesman Larry Speakes. "It is crucial, however, that the settlement be pursued at the table in direct negotiations, based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 242."

The resolution, adopted after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, recognises Israel's right to exist within secure borders and calls for a peace agreement based on the return of Arab territories occupied by Israel in the conflict.

"If the discussions in Amman help move the parties to the negotiating table it is a welcomed development," Mr. Speakes said. But he added that the U.S. had not seen all the details of the agreement reached by King Hussein and Mr. Arafat.

Israel, which carried out an invasion of Lebanon in 1982 which led to the massacre of hundreds of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, by Israeli-backed Lebanese militias, refuses to hold direct negotiations with the PLO.

"King Fahd has urged the United States to act 'more vigorously' in the Middle East but U.S. policy is to hold back until Jordan and the PLO arrange for direct negotiations with Israel," the Associated Press quoted Mr. Speakes (Continued on page 2)

Berri and Junblatt pose new challenge to cabinet

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's government, preparing for a major test of its authority as Israel starts its pullout from the south, faced a new challenge Wednesday as two key Muslim leaders boycotted a crisis cabinet meeting.

Sources close to Shi'ite-Muslim leader Nabih Berri said he was staying away because of dissatisfaction with the pace of government action, but would attend when it worked "seriously."

Political analysts said Mr. Berri, who is effectively led by President Amin Gemayel, for blocking swift solutions to a host of pressing problems.

As well as trying to extend army control to the south as Israel starts its three-stage withdrawal, the government faces a growing financial crisis and collapse of the Lebanese pound as confidence wanes in its ability to tackle economic problems.

Also absent was Walid Junblatt, head of the Mainly-Druze Progressive Socialist Party, who has boycotted the cabinet for months

saying he fears to come to Beirut and cannot work with Mr. Gemayel.

Ministerial sources said Mr. Gemayel told the meeting that positive developments were taking place to stabilise the pound, which has fallen by 50 per cent against the dollar this year.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami said after the three-hour session that the cabinet would meet again Thursday with labour representatives present to tackle the economic crisis.

Mr. Gemayel and Mr. Karami last week accused all sectarian militias of robbing state funds and blocking efforts to restore revenues by establishing state control over ports, roads and utilities.

Their comments brought a pledge from the Paganist Party, which controls the "Lebanese Forces" militia, to save Lebanon from collapse by "rendering to the state what is the state's."

The "Lebanese Forces" control the booming illegal port of Jounieh, north of Beirut, and tax traffic on the coast road to Tripoli

Fahd, Weinberger hold talks on Saudi arms needs

WASHINGTON (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia discussed his country's arms requirements with Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger Wednesday but U.S. defence sources said no new weapons sales would be approved now.

U.S. officials said the two met for more than an hour at the Saudi embassy residence as the king continued a round of meetings on his five-day state visit to Washington. But the officials would not disclose details of the meeting.

Defence sources said it was thought that King Fahd brought Mr. Weinberger up to date on Saudi arms needs, which include a request for 40 F-15 fighters and air-to-air missiles, and that the talks covered broad Middle East security issues and the Arab-Israeli peace process as well.

But arms sales to Saudi Arabia are not a live issue for now, officials noted, with the Reagan administration putting under review its entire Middle East security policy.

When the question of new arms does come up, Congress may balk, arguing that selling more F-15s to

Saudi Arabia could touch off another Middle East arms race. The Saudis had previously purchased 60 of the advanced jets.

Israel has also expressed concern over a Saudi sale, saying that if more weapons go to the Arabs it would also need new U.S. arms to maintain the area's military balance — arms which its strained economy could not easily afford.

King Fahd on Wednesday also met Treasury Secretary James Baker. He conferred on Monday and Tuesday with President Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz and other senior officials.

Mr. Reagan, commenting on the Fahd talks as he left Washington for a vacation in California Wednesday, said "it was a worthwhile visit for both countries and for both heads of state."

Seeming to back a Saudi arms bid, Mr. Reagan said in welcoming King Fahd on Monday that the Iran-Iraq war was raging only a few minutes by air from his country, and added: "We will cooperate with Saudi Arabia to ensure the integrity of your border."



Acting Information Minister Taher Hikmat Wednesday addresses two American congressmen who are currently on a fact-finding tour of the Middle East (Petra photo)

Hussein pays tribute to Algerian revolution

ALGIERS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein, on the second day of a state visit to Algeria, Wednesday visited the Martyrs Monument in Algiers and laid a wreath at the Unknown Soldier's Tomb. He also visited Al Jihad Museum and viewed the exhibits there depicting the various stages of the Algerian revolution for independence from France.

The King offered prayers for the martyrs of the Algerian revolution, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. He entered a few words of praise for the martyrs in the visitor's book at the museum.

"We are reminded of the heroic struggle of the Arab Muslim Algerian people for their rights, freedom, independence and dignity," he wrote. "It pleases me and my companions from Jordan to register on behalf of the Jordanian people the feelings of love and our respect for our Algerian brothers

for their struggle through their history. And today, we respect the honest leadership of Algeria in their efforts and struggle for the common Arab cause."

King Hussein, who arrived in Algeria Tuesday accompanied by Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al-Jasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, also visited the Algerian military academy in the Shirshal district of the Algerian capital. He was greeted there by a guard of honour and received by the director of the academy, who welcomed the King's visit and praised the brotherly Jordanian-Algerian relations. The academy director also briefed the King on the programmes and activities of the institution which serves as a military

university. King Hussein also paid a visit to a military training centre near Algiers and inspected various equipment used by the Algerian armed forces for training purposes.

King Hussein and President Chadli Benjedid held official talks Tuesday immediately after the King's arrival on current Arab affairs and the latest situation in the region. Petra, which reported the talks, did not give details of the topics discussed, but it was believed that the King briefed President Benjedid on an agreement Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) reached on Monday on common action towards a just settlement of the Palestinian problem.

The King and the delegation accompanying him were guests of honour at a dinner hosted by President Benjedid Tuesday night.

Iran says Iraqi planes attacked nuclear plant

LONDON (Agencies) — Iraqi jets attacked an unfinished nuclear power plant at the southern Iranian port of Bushire Tuesday night, Iran's national news agency IRNA said Wednesday.

The two Iraqi jets fired only one rocket which killed one person and wounded several others, the agency, received in London, said. It gave no further details.

Iran had two nuclear plants under construction by the West German firm Kraftwerk Union, but work was suspended after the Islamic revolution in 1979.

The Swedish state-owned power company Swedpower said last October Iran had asked it to help restart its nuclear power programme but the negotiations had been broken off.

The London-based defence periodical Jane's Defence Weekly said last April that Iran was making an atomic bomb, likely to be ready in two years, at Bushire. But Kraftwerk Union said it would be

virtually impossible to use the plants for this.

In Vienna, a spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed that Iran has notified the agency of the attack but there was no danger of a nuclear explosion at the site.

Construction on the Bushire plant began under the Shah, but was halted by the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini after the Shah was overthrown in 1979. Iran notified the agency last year that it intended to complete the plant, the spokesman said.

Electrical and mechanical systems were in place, the agency was told, but "there is no (reactor) core, no nuclear material in that plant," the spokesman said.

IRNA said Prime Minister Hussein Musavi, at a cabinet meeting Wednesday, mentioned an attack on "energy installations in Bushire," but the report gave few details.

Chernenko sends messages to two world peace groups

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The TASS news agency published two messages from President Konstantin U. Chernenko on Wednesday in an apparent effort to dampen speculation about the leader's health after he reportedly cancelled a meeting with the visiting Greek premier.

The messages, to Nordic and Argentine peace groups, were the latest in a series of statements issued in Mr. Chernenko's name during the seven weeks in which he was not been seen by outsiders.

Mr. Chernenko's messages were addressed to the Nordic group "Treaty Now," which advocates a nuclear free zone in Northern Europe, and to the Argentine group "Movement of the 100 in the Name of Life." TASS said both organisations had written to Mr. Chernenko.

Addressing the Nordic group, Mr. Chernenko charged NATO has disturbed the nuclear balance in Europe and threatened security by deploying the first group of a planned 572 Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe.

"Veritable mountains of weapons have been piled up in our continent today," he said. "I use this opportunity to reiterate the Soviet Union's readiness to become a guarantor of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the north of Europe and to consider certain substantial measures with regard to its own territory adjacent to the zone so as to contribute to the strengthening of non-nuclear status," the message said.

"We would be prepared, in particular, to discuss with interested sides the question of granting a non-nuclear status to the Baltic Sea," it said.

U.S.-Soviet Mideast talks scheduled to begin Tuesday

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and Soviet Union, stepping up their dialogue on troubled regions of the world, plan to hold talks in Vienna beginning next Tuesday on the Arab-Israeli conflict and other difficult issues, a Reagan administration source said Wednesday.

Also on the agenda is the war between Iran and Iraq and the presence of more than 100,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

Richard W. Murphy, assistant secretary of state for the Near East, is expected to head the U.S. delegation.

The talks are parts of a Reagan administration effort to work out a better relationship with Moscow, as pledged by President Ronald Reagan in a U.N. speech last September.

The two sides are due to open negotiations to curb nuclear weapons in Geneva in mid-March.

Partly to ease Israeli concerns, U.S. officials have emphasised there is no plan to call a conference on the Middle East and giving the Soviets a major role in seeking an overall settlement.

On a trip here last week, however, Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, reflecting Cairo's growing ties with the Soviets, endorsed the idea of such a conference. He said such a meeting in Geneva in 1973 paid off with Israeli withdrawals from parts of the Sinai and Golan Heights.

The Iran-Iraq war, meanwhile, appears to threaten the interests of both superpowers, with its potential to spread throughout the Gulf region. Western oil supplies could be at risk.

The administration disclosed its intention to hold Middle East talks with the Soviets earlier this year. Afterwards, officials made a concerted effort to play down the importance of the discussions and said they simply were designed to ease tensions.

Lebanese troops back down after confronting Israelis

AWALI RIVER, Lebanon (R) — Lebanese soldiers advancing on Israel's frontlines in South Lebanon Wednesday met Israeli soldiers face-to-face, and hurriedly retreated after the two sides trained guns on each other for a tense five minutes.

There was no shooting, but the Lebanese army appeared to have got off to a false start in its first tentative move to position itself for the takeover of Sidon from the departing Israelis.

Twenty-five men of Lebanon's 12th Army Brigade holding the abandoned Alman Bridge crossing point on Israel's Awali River frontlines were stunned when two Israeli armoured vehicles roared up in late morning and trained their guns on them.

The Lebanese, who quietly took over the bridge Tuesday night when pro-Israeli militiamen left, ran into buildings, aimed their rifles at the armoured vehicles and consulted anxiously over field telephones as the Israelis waited.

The Israelis roared off after five minutes and the Lebanese then withdrew. "We are leaving because the Israeli army is still here," their commander told Reuters.

Machine-gun bursts erupted as the Israelis rounded a bend in the road, and a farmer later said: "I was picking oranges and bullets started kicking up the earth all round me. I dived into the ditch and thank God I was safe."

It was not known if the Israelis were firing at commandos, whose attacks are taking a heavy toll on their men, or were carrying out "reconnaissance by fire" — a frequent tactic in South Lebanon.

Two Israeli-made Merkava tanks later took up position at the bridge, closing the gap in the frontlines caused by the departure of pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen.

There were no further incidents as the four battalions of Lebanon's 12th Brigade, waiting in sight of Sidon on the coast road for the Israelis to retreat to new frontlines up to 24 kilometres south, made no more moves to approach Israeli

lines. Sidon, South Lebanon's major city two kilometres behind the lines, began springing back to life after the SLA pullout Tuesday, which is to be followed by the departure of the Israelis within six days.

"We feel like prisoners who are being set free," a Sidon man told Reuters correspondent William MacClean, in a typical comment welcoming the impending end of Israel's two-and-a-half-year occupation.

Armed Sidon police took over the port customs office and patrolled the streets for the first time since Israeli troops stormed the city during the costly and bloody June 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Streets were crowded and busy with traffic, and shops began reopening as tension relaxed after days of self-imposed curfew in a city terrified by sporadic shooting by Israeli and SLA troops and attacks on them by masked gunmen.

Security sources said a carload of gunmen fired on a man in the main street, wounding him and a pedestrian. Israeli armoured vehicles still on patrol also fired fre-

quent bursts to keep potential attackers away, but there were no reports of clashes.

"Up to now things are going well because all of us in Sidon want to get rid of the Israelis," a patrolling police corporal told Reuters. "The people want to breathe easily."

Israeli and SLA forces, however, remained in the Christian village of Aabra adjoining Sidon, and SLA men said they would not leave with the Israelis.

Apparently convinced that the Israeli pullout is imminent, the Lebanese government sent two battalions from Beirut during the night to reinforce two waiting for days opposite Israeli lines.

They brought the task force for taking over the Sidon area to about 1,500 men, to be strengthened by a fifth battalion of about 400 men from the Sidon Garrison which has been inactive during the occupation.

A Reuters reporter saw six French-made Lebanese army AMX-13 tanks, 24 armoured personnel carriers and 42 trucks assembled on the coast road above Israeli lines ready for the final drive into Sidon.



REGENT VISITS ARMY HQ: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday visited the Army's General Headquarters where he was received by Armed Forces Chief of

Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleb and his assistants. The Regent and the chief of staff discussed a number of matters pertaining to the Armed Forces (Petra photo)

Hussein is key factor in promoting Mideast peace, congressmen say

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two American congressmen, currently in Amman on a fact finding tour of the region, Wednesday said His Majesty King Hussein is the key factor in promoting a peace solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and that the U.S. role in the Middle East "should be more as a facilitator and mediator rather than being involved directly in the issue."

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Robert Lago Masino, a Republican congressman from Ventura, California, and Ronald Packard from San Diego, also in California, said that their current tour is a fact-finding mission sponsored by the World Affairs Council (WAC), in cooperation with the U.S.-based National Association of Arab-Americans (NAAA).

They said their mission is to talk to Jordanian officials and cross-sections of Jordanians in order to reach a core of a peace solution. When asked about the WAC activities in the U.S., Mr. Packard said the WAC has been trying to bring congressmen to the Middle East region "to take a close look at the situation."

"Moreover, they are trying to enlighten U.S. decision-makers on facts in the Middle East," he added.

Speaking about the U.S. role in the region, Mr. Lago Masino said the U.S. should take a supervisory role and leave the initiatives to the concerned parties to take.

He said the Reagan administration "is cooperating with the moderate Arab countries and Israel with the aim of finding a just and durable peace in the Middle East."

Answering a question on the international peace conference called for by King Hussein at the inaugural opening session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman last November, the congressmen said "at present, we think such a conference may not be the best solution since some Arab countries are opposed to the principle of peace with Israel."

"However, it is better to get moderate Arab countries to support the King's proposal as a pre-requisite stage."

In response to a question on the Soviet Union's expected role, they said the Soviet Union "has always been an obstacle to peace." "They are actually opposing peace efforts rather than endorsing

them," the congressmen contended.

They said the U.S. interests lie in "preventing the spread of Communism and Soviet domination" in the world at large including the Middle East.

Speaking about the recent Palestinian-Jordanian agreement on a framework for common action towards solving the Palestinian question, they said it is premature to comment on the issue since it has not been discussed in the United States.

"However, Crown Prince Hassan briefed us on the planned joint action in general terms and we think it does not conflict with President Reagan's 1982 proposal."

"Eventually, we expect that the U.S. administration will endorse the idea," the congressmen added. "What is really important is Israel's reaction to the issue."

Asked whether they have been influenced by the U.S. Jewish lobby not to make their current trip, they said: "We only had some criticism concerning the kind of organisations sponsoring our journey."

The delegation originally comprised of four congressmen. But two of them backed out from taking the trip.

U.K. voices support for Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Britain has emerged as one of Turkey's strongest supporters in Europe during the visit of Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe which ended Wednesday.

Speaking at an airport news conference with Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu before leaving for home, Sir Geoffrey described ties between the two countries as cordial and close.

One diplomat present at a dinner given for Sir Geoffrey by Mr. Halefoglu Tuesday night jokingly described it as a "love-in". In his speech at the dinner, Sir Geoffrey praised what he called Turkey's wisdom and courage in maintaining its democratic aspirations.

He told Mr. Halefoglu Wednesday that "in recognition of the progress made in your country in moving towards democracy" Britain wanted Turkey's ties with the European Community strengthened.

Mr. Halefoglu said Britain had shown understanding for Turkey's problems, but he asked that it do more to better Turkey's relations with Europe.

Some other European countries remain critical to varying degrees of what they see as Turkey's failure to restore democracy in full since the 1980 military coup.

The coup led the European Community to freeze some \$460 million worth of aid, which Sir Geoffrey Wednesday said should now be freed. "This has been, and remains, a priority British objective in the Community's external relations," he said.

Although the issue has not been formally discussed by the Community, Denmark and Greece are thought to oppose release of the aid.

Also souring ties is a complaint to the European Human Rights Commission of abuses in Turkey made by France, Denmark and the Netherlands, and non-Community members Norway and Sweden, which is still being investigated by the commission.

Relations with West Germany are better but stretched by Bonn's opposition to a long-standing plan for Turkish workers to have free movement in the Community from next year. Chancellor Helmut Kohl plans to visit Turkey this year, diplomats said.

'Jordan-PLO accord historic chance for U.S. action'

(Continued from page 1)

as saying. Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, currently in Paris for talks with French officials (See page 2), said Wednesday: "The present U.S. administration is less under pressure from certain influences that existed during the last administration."

Mr. Abdul Meguid described the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement as an "important step on the road for Arab common action."

Official sources told the Jordan Times Tuesday the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was based on the principle of exchanging land for peace as included in U.N. resolutions on the Middle East and Fez Arab summit plan of 1982.

The sources, who said the agreement did not commit itself to any specific U.N. resolution, added that the two sides agreed to continue to work together for the

convening of an international Middle East peace conference.

The PLO rejected Resolution 242 which did not clearly stipulate that all Arab territories occupied by Israel during the 1967 war be returned and referred to the Palestinian problem as one of refugees. The resolution also did not provide for meeting Palestinian demands for self-determination and statehood.

The Fez Arab plan, submitted by King Fahd, calls for an independent Palestinian state on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital. The plan implicitly recognised Israel's right to exist within secure borders.

King Hussein, who is currently on the second day of his visit to Algiers, held talks with President Chadli Benjedid on the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas, including the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, and the two sides agreed to continue to work together for the

Palestine National Council (PNC) last November. The King proposed a joint Jordanian-Palestinian strategy. Among other things, the PNC resolutions backed a confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian state.

Jordan proposed a common Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which might circumvent Israel's refusal to negotiate directly with the PLO. The organisation insisted on either a separate PLO team or a common Arab delegation involving other nations.

The Associated Press said King Hussein, who already started seeking support for the Jordanian-Palestinian accord, had met with U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Paul Boeker shortly after the pact was reached. Mr. Boeker is expected to return to Washington on Thursday for consultations.

Mr. Arafat, returned from Amman to his Tunis headquarters Tuesday to discuss with Palestinian leaders the PLO-Jordanian joint action formula.

A PLO spokesman in Tunis was quoted by Reuters as saying the formula would be discussed over the next few days by the 60-member Fatah Revolutionary Council, to be followed by a meeting of the 70 member Central Council in Algiers on Feb. 17-18 to endorse the formula.

Official sources told the Jordan Times Tuesday the formula was already endorsed by the majority of Central Council and Executive Committee members.

27 die in Manila hotel fire

MANILA (R) — At least 27 people, mostly foreigners, died and scores were injured when fire swept through a luxury hotel in the Philippine capital and raged out of control for more than 30 hours, fire department officials said Wednesday.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
MAIN CHANNEL 17:00 Koran 17:10 Cartoons 17:35 Children's Programmes 18:10 Walt Disney 19:00 Local Programme on Agriculture 19:30 Programme Review 19:40 Week's Event 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Arabic Series 21:20 Tomorrow's Programmes 21:50 Arabic Play 22:00 News in Arabic 22:10 Play Continued	06:00 Newdesk 06:30 Classical Record Review 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:20 People's Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newdesk 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:40 The Farming World 09:00 World News 09:20 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Short Takes 09:45 News Summary 10:00 World News 10:10 Reflections 10:15 Country Music Profile 10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:00 British Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Monitor 12:00 News Summary: From The Promenade Concerts 12:30 Clayton's Zodiac 13:00 World News 13:00 News about Britain 13:15 News Ideas 13:25 The Week in Wales 13:30 Assignment 14:00 Radio Newdesk 14:15 Top Twenty 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:00 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 Sackbut And Sinfonia 16:00 News Summary: Outlook 16:45 Out On The Floor 17:00 Radio Newdesk 17:15 The Pleasure's Yours 18:00 World News 18:00 Commentary 18:15 Assignment 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:00 Sports Round-up 19:30 News Summary 19:45 Discovery 21:00 News Summary: Out- look 21:45 Stock Market Report 21:45 Report on Religion 22:00 World News 22:00 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Business Matters 23:00 News Summary 23:05 In the Meantime 23:15 A Jolly Good Show 24:00 World News 00:00 The World Today 00:25 The Week in Wales 00:30 Financial News 00:40 Ref- lections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News: Commentary 01:15 Mer- chant Navy Programme 01:30 Meridian
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855 KHz AM & 99 MHz FM & parity on 9560 KHz SW	
07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newdesk 08:00 Morning Show 08:30 News Summary 09:00 Morning Show 10:00 Pop Session 11:00 News Summary 12:00 Pop Session Contd. 12:30 News Summary 13:00 Pop Session 14:00 News Bulletin 14:15 Talking Points 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:30 Instrumentals 16:30 Old Favourites 17:00 25 Years of Rock 18:00 News Summary 18:05 Special Feature 18:10 From the Holy Koran 19:00 Newdesk 19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 Evening Show 21:00 News Summary 21:05 Evening Show Contd. 21:50 News Summary 22:00 Evening Show Contd. 23:00 News Summary 23:05 Evening Show Contd. 23:57 News Headlines 24:00 Close down	
VOICE OF AMERICA	
MW 1260, SW 7200, 9545, 11740, 11925 & 15210 KHz	
06:00 VOA Morning: News, Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Fea- ture Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, News 24:10 Focus 18:30 Special English and Features 21:00 Newsline America 21:30 Music USA 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 VOA World Report	

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS
* Design and Industry exhibition at Yarmouk University Gymnasium 9:00- 12:00 and 14:00 to 17:00 * Photographs of sites in Jerusalem at the Royal Cultural Centre.	* Happy Valentine's Day at the Amer- ican Centre 7:00 p.m.
FILM	CONCERT
* Musical Concert at the Royal Cultural Centre, 8:00 p.m. A concert of Oboe, Bassoon and Clarinet music with works by International Composers, 8 p.m.	* Musical Concert at the Royal Cultural Centre, 8:00 p.m. A concert of Oboe, Bassoon and Clarinet music with works by International Composers, 8 p.m.
CULTURAL CENTRES	CHURCHES
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267 American Centre 44371 American Centre Library 41520 British Council 36147-8 French Cultural Centre 37009 Goethe Institute 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre 44203 Spanish Cultural Centre 24049 Turkish Cultural Centre 39777 Hayat Centre 665195 Hussein Youth City 667191 Y.W.C.A. 41793 Y.W.M.C.A. 664251 Jordan National Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 443555	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, tel. 24590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Luveldah, 374-40. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein, 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, 23541. Anglican Church (Church of the Res- surrection) Jabbal Amman, 24583. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 171331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 175261. Syrian Orthodox Church (Syrian Or- thodox) Ashrafieh, 171751. Amman International Church (Inter- denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, R16534.
MUSEUMS	PRAYER TIMES
Fakhre Museum: Jewelry and cos- tumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round, Tel. 51760. Jordan National Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal Al Qafra (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a col- lection of paintings, ceramics, and scul- ptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Montazah, Jabbal	06:56 Fajr 06:50 (Sunrise) Dhuha 11:59 Dhur 14:56 'Asr 17:20 Maghreb 18:45 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	MARITIME TRAFFIC
This information is supplied by Alia in- formation department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 532520, where it should always be verified.	Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port: — Jil Far — Ryskany — Frio Possidon — Bana — Tercu — Aldebaran — Kouta Waruna — Azur Amin Kawan and Sons Company, Tel: 23224 (aka lines) to your service.
ARRIVALS	MONEY EXCHANGE
09:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 09:45 Bucharest (RJ) 09:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 09:45 Kuwait (RJ) 09:45 Jeddah (RJ) 09:45 Cairo (RJ) 10:00 Dhahran (RJ) 10:00 Beirut (RJ) 10:35 Dhahran, Riyadh (SV) 11:30 Isanbul, Ankara (TK) 12:05 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)	Local sell-buy rates in Jls Belgian franc 62.57 / 63.9 Dutch guilder 10.09 / 11.5 Egyptian guinea 306.3 / 310.6 French franc 41.2 / 41.4 Iraqi dinar 340.3 / 354 Italian lire (for 100) 20.3 / 20.5 Japanese yen (for 100) 157.5 / 158.4 Kuwaiti dinar 1339.3 / 1345.6 Lebanese lira 25.3 / 30.2 Omani rial 1193.3 / 1203.3 Qatari riyal 113 / 114.2 Saudi riyal 115.1 / 115.3 Swedish crown 44.4 / 44.6 Swiss franc 147.9 / 148.7 Syrian lira 32.6 / 34 UAE dirham 112.2 / 113 U.S. sterling pound 451.1 / 453.8 U.S. dollar 413.5 / 415.3 W. German mark 125.8 / 126.5
DEPARTURES	WEATHER
05:45 Cairo (RJ) 06:50 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH) 07:00 Damascus, Beirut (RJ) 08:00 Damascus, Paris (AF) 08:45 Beirut (MEA) 11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:15 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ) 12:00 Paris, London (RJ) 12:15 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV) 12:30 Brussels, Istanbul (RJ) 12:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 13:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)	It will be relatively warm. Light and vari- able winds will become southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be nor- thely moderate and seas calm.
LOW FLYING TEMPERATURE IN DEG. C	
Amman 5/20 Aqaba 10/25 Deserts 4/21 Jordan Valley 11/24	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
EMERGENCIES	HOSPITALS
Ambulance 193, 775111 Fire, fire, police 775121 Blood bank 775121 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 32090-3 Police rescue 193, 21111, 37777 Police headquarters 39141 Traffic police 56390-1 Electric Power Co. 36391-2 Municipal water service 77125-8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333	Hussein Medical Centre 81361-3, 32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 44281-4 Akhleh Maternity, J. Amman 42441 Jabbal Amman Maternity 42362 Madha, J. Amman 664171-4 Palestine, Shmeisani 666131 Shmeisani Hospital 666131 University Hospital 84545 Al-Mustashfi Hospital 66722-9 The Islamic, Abadi 665393 Al-Ahli, Abadi 665164 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101-3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111 Army, Marka 91611
GENERAL	NIGHT DUTY
Jordan Television 773111 Radio Jordan 774111 Ministry of Tourism 42311 Hotel complaints 666412 Price complaints 661176 Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Cable or telegram Repair service 11	AMMAN: Dr. Mohammad Horani 88552
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in Jls per kg. Apple (double red) 300 / 270 Apple (golden) 300 / 270 Apple (stark) 300 / 270 Banana 280 / 240 Banana (Mukammal) 240 / 210 Beans 300 / 250 Broad beans 230 / 180 Cabbage 70 / 50 Carrot 620 / 580 Carrot (yellow) 130 / 100 Carrot (black) 150 / 120 Cauliflower 130 / 100 Cucumber (large) 250 / 200 Cucumber (small) 250 / 200 Eggplant (large) 160 / 120 Eggplant (small) 180 / 150 Garlic 180 / 150 Grapefruit 150 / 120	Lemon 130 / 100 Lettuce (per one) 80 / 50 Mallow 250 / 200 Mandarin 160 / 130 Marrow (large) 120 / 90 Marrow (small) 260 / 220 Onion (dry) 150 / 120 Onion (green) 140 / 110 Oranges (Abu Surra) 260 / 220 Oranges (Shmeisani) 200 / 160 Parsley 70 / 70 Peas (American) 580 / 550 Pepper (sweet) 520 / 480 Pepper (hot green) 380 / 420 Potatoes (local) 190 / 160 Radishes 70 / 50 Spinach 70 / 50 Tomatoes 160 / 130 Turnip 130 / 100

FOR FRIDAY	
JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
MAIN CHANNEL 10:00 Koran 10:10 Cartoons 10:40 Woody Woodpecker 11:10 Children's Programmes 12:15 Friday's Prayer 13:15 Documentary 14:10 Soccer 15:30 Knight Rider 15:30 Arabic Programme 16:30 News in Arabic 16:30 Local Programme 21:00 Arabic Series 22:00 Arabic Variety Programme	23:00 News Summary 06:00 Newdesk 06:30 Country Music Profile 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Ref- lections 07:00 World News 07:20 Peo- ple's Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newdesk 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:40 The Farming World 09:00 World News 09:20 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Short Takes 09:45 News Summary 10:00 World News 10:10 Reflections 10:15 Country Music Profile 10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:00 British Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Monitor 12:00 News Summary: From The Promenade Concerts 12:30 Clayton's Zodiac 13:00 World News 13:00 News about Britain 13:15 News Ideas 13:25 The Week in Wales 13:30 Assignment 14:00 Radio Newdesk 14:15 Top Twenty 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:00 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 Sackbut And Sinfonia 16:00 News Summary: Outlook 16:45 Out On The Floor 17:00 Radio Newdesk 17:15 The Pleasure's Yours 18:00 World News 18:00 Commentary 18:15 Assignment 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:00 Sports Round-up 19:30 News Summary 19:45 Discovery 21:00 News Summary: Out- look 21:45 Stock Market Report 21:45 Report on Religion 22:00 World News 22:00 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Business Matters 23:00 News Summary 23:05 In the Meantime 23:15 A Jolly

Lawzi, Daoudieh receive Romanian Muslim team

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting delegation representing the Muslim community in Romania was received Wednesday by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi.

The delegation is headed by Romania's Deputy Mufti Sheikh Rajab Saleh and includes Deputy Minister of Religion Yon Popopescu and the Imam of Bucharest Grand Mosque Sheikh Nooredin Badri.

Discussions during the meeting focused on bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The delegation was also received by Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs Abed Khalaf Daoudieh who explained the role of his ministry in the service of the community and the extension of Islamic awareness.

Sheikh Saleh praised Jordan's development and said that the 100,000 Muslims of his country support Jordan's role and leadership.

He said that Romania's Muslims perform their religious rites and worship at more than 70 mosques.

Dr. Popopescu praised the good, friendly relations between the two countries and expressed

hope for more and evergrowing cooperation.

Mr. Daoudieh expressed the willingness of his ministry to offer a number of scholarships to Romanian students to study Arabic language and Islamic subjects in Jordan.

The meeting was attended by Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs Under-Secretary Abdul Salam Abadi, General Mufti of Jordan Sheikh Izzedin Khatib, Romanian Ambassador to Jordan Andrei Cervencoric and a number of ministry and Romanian embassy officials.

The delegation later met with Jordan's Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan.

Sheikh Mheilan explained Jordan's civil status laws, the function of 'Jadil Al Judah' (supreme judges), the function of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, the Awqaf department, the Ifta department, and the Sharia (Islamic) courts.

Sheikh Saleh explained the status of Muslims in Romania and said that his visit aims at bolstering cooperation and contacts between the Muslims of Jordan and Romania and to brief Jordanian officials on the conditions of Muslims in his country.



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs (left) Wednesday receives a visiting Islamic delegation from Romania currently on a visit to Jordan for discussions on cooperation in Islamic affairs (Petra photo)

JEA, atomic agency finalise technical study on Jordan's energy requirements

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), with technical assistance from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and in close coordination with various departments, has finalised a study on Jordan's energy requirements until the year 2000.

A draft final report on the outcome of the study was presented to various departments concerned with energy generation and distribution in Jordan at a meeting at the JEA headquarters here Tuesday.

A three-member delegation from the IAEA, which offered technical advice to the national team preparing the study, was present during the meeting.

No details of the recommendations included in the study were available, but according to a JEA spokesman "the final report conforms with what has been projected by the JEA and other concerned departments about Jordan's energy requirements until the year 1990 and it will help us very much in planning for the years after 1990."

The IAEA, a specialised U.N. agency with 112 member states, provided the technical expertise needed to draw up the study under the agency's provisions for free technical assistance to member countries.

"We initiated the process of conducting the study in late 1983 following a specific request by the World Bank with whom the IAEA

works in close coordination," said Mr. Jean-Pierre Charpentier, head of the delegation currently in Jordan. "We are most glad that every phase of the study was completed according to a pre-determined schedule and I believe that it was the result of very close cooperation and coordination among the concerned governmental departments and agencies in Jordan."

No figures were available for the cost of the study, but the IAEA's contribution, including the travel and accommodation costs of its technical teams which visited Jordan several times during the course of the study, was free of cost. In its turn, the JEA paid the costs of its technical experts' travel to the IAEA headquarters in Vienna and other related expenses.

The focus of the study is the long-term goal in planning Jordan's energy requirements and recommendations for appropriate investments in infrastructure and other sectors to achieve the projected goal with the minimum possible cost, taking into consideration the country's natural resources and industrial development and other relevant factors.

No nuclear power plant

Mr. Charpentier emphasised that "there is no consideration whatsoever of setting up a nuclear power plant in Jordan." He explained that "purely technical reasons are behind such a conclusion, for Jordan does not need such a facility."

Parliamentary delegation holds official talks in Cairo

Fayez urges Arab leaders to support Jordanian, Egyptian peace initiative

CAIRO (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez Wednesday called on Arab leaders to bear their responsibilities and to support Jordanian-Egyptian efforts to formulate a peace settlement in the Middle East which insures the restoration of Palestinian rights and the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territories.

Mr. Fayez, who arrived in Cairo at the head of a 16-man parliamentary delegation, was speaking at a meeting with the speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly, Dr. Rifat Mahjoub.

Mr. Fayez said that the restoration of diplomatic relations between Jordan and Egypt was a national step on the road towards unifying Arab ranks and towards the convening of an international peace conference for the restoration of Arab rights.

He added that any Arab action without Egypt is worthless and he praised the Egyptian people's continuous support and sacrifices for Arab causes.

He said that relations between

Jordanians and Palestinians are not only united but that there is a strong bond that joins the inhabitants of the two banks of Jordan.

Members of the parliamentary delegation Sami Judeh, Sheikh Abdelbaki Jamo, Rizq Bataneh and Salman Al Judah also spoke during the meeting and praised Egypt's stands vis-a-vis Arab causes.

In his reply, Dr. Mahjoub praised Jordan's restoration of relations with Egypt and lauded Jordan's hosting of the 17th session of the Palestine National Council in Amman in November 1984.

Mr. Fayez and the accompanying delegation were also

received by Consultative Council Speaker Subhi Abdul Kareem.

The Jordanian delegation arrived in Cairo Wednesday morning on a visit lasting one week and were received by Dr. Mahjoub and a number of Egyptian parliamentarians.

In a statement at the airport, Mr. Fayez said that the latest Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is based on the convening of an international peace conference. United Nations Security Council resolutions, Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the peace for land principle.

He added that he hoped this visit would help bolster relations between the two brotherly countries.

The delegation is scheduled to meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali on Thursday.

The delegation will also meet a number of Egyptian officials and will make visits to several cities and tour Egypt's historical and archaeological sites.

Jordan, Egypt plan to develop cooperation in Islamic affairs

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt will bolster cooperation between the two countries in various fields of Islamic affairs, according to discussions held here between Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abed Khalaf Daoudieh and Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbeh.

The two men discussed the exchange of visits, publication and periodicals, exchange of experience in the field of Awqaf and the increase of Egyptian preachers

and Imams seconded to work in Jordan.

They also stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination between the two countries for the purpose of increasing Islamic knowledge and awareness.

Mr. Daoudieh reviewed the ministry's efforts in Islamic affairs and its support to West Bank Islamic institutions. The meeting was attended by Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Under-Secretary Abdul Salam Abadi.

Railway's revenues rise

AMMAN (Petra) — Revenues of the Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) soared from JD 50,000 in 1975 to JD 7 million in 1984, according to Minister of Transport Farhi Obaid. He said that the transportation of phosphate by rail rose from 36,000 tonnes in 1975 to 3,153,000 tonnes in 1984. The minister added that the corporation is currently renewing 65 kilometres of the railway line between Ma'an and Ban Alghoul. The corporation is also floating a tender for similar work on 102 kilometres of railway in order to increase the capacity of the railway by an additional one million tonnes.

80 local companies to exhibit in Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra) — Eighty Jordanian companies and organisations will represent Jordanian industries at an exhibition of Jordanian products to be held in Bahrain. A spokesman from the Amman Chamber of Commerce said that Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, has assisted in carrying industrial products at fifty per cent discount.

DLDNA takes steps to promote reading, establish libraries

By Raghdia Azizieh
Special to the Jordan Times

First steps

AMMAN — Often we hear that Jordan is not a "reading nation" — which leads one to ask "why?" Is it perhaps the high cost of books which prevents people from reading? Newcomers to Jordan find the country lacking in public library services, yet statistics reveal that library users are mainly scholars and that libraries are seldom used for cultural or social reasons. In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Ahmad Sharkas, director general of the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA) says: "When it is said that we are not a 'reading public' it is in some ways exaggerated. But this does not hide the fact that we should develop our reading habits."

Discussing efforts to promote reading through the establishment of public libraries, Dr. Sharkas went on to say that his department aims to develop a network of public libraries in every town and village in Jordan, starting with a library in Amman.

going ahead, incorporating Islamic and Arab architectural designs, according to Dr. Sharkas.

Reaching out

Elaborating on the national network of libraries plan, Dr. Sharkas outlined the department's "Reach Out" programme which involves expanding and promoting the project to most areas of the Kingdom and not only concentrating on major cities such as Irbid and Zarqa. "It has been our policy to reach out to every area of Jordan and to try and spread awareness about reading, the importance of books and libraries and to help people develop their reading habits," said Dr. Sharkas.

In order to do this, the department has adopted an innovative and interesting mobile library system using a "Reading Tent" — a brightly coloured portable tent equipped with a selection of books which is set up in remote areas and small communities. Dr. Sharkas says that this tent has been very successful as it relates directly to the history



Ahmad Sharkas

and culture of both the East and West Banks of Jordan.

The department tries to involve all the community's members in the project to ensure success. The village council, women's associations and the municipality are all encouraged to participate and become involved in setting up a library for their community. One successful example of the reading tent project is in Wadi Musa where the townspeople set up their own library as a result of the tent visiting their area. Dr. Sharkas said that the Wadi Musa project was most successful for social reasons — the community has no recreation facilities or television and a library filled both the social need and the recreation need.

The DLDNA also helps the villages and towns to establish their libraries by providing equipment such as furniture and shelves to help the people set up reading halls. Inter-library loan systems where a reading hall can borrow books from a larger library nearby helps smaller libraries to have a wider selection of books, Dr. Sharkas said.

The local communities contribute to the project by donating the land and the building for the library or, as in the case of Zarqa, by helping to raise funds for the project. Dr. Sharkas said that the DLDNA with the help of Zarqa's citizens, was able to raise JD 60,000 for the Zarqa library project. The library will be established on a five-dunum area of land in a central part of the city

and will serve as a model for others, he said. The plans for this project are almost ready and will be available soon for engineering officials to bid on the tender. Dr. Sharkas added.

Computer system

Discussing cataloguing library cards by computer, Dr. Sharkas said that the DLDNA is cooperating with the Royal Scientific Society to catalogue library cards on computers. The department has experimented with the system by cataloguing 10,000 cards on computer and hopes to carry on with the project, depending on finances.

Dr. Sharkas said that once the DLDNA is centrally computerised, this will facilitate and control national cataloguing with participants in the system being able to refer to the department to order or copy book cards from the DLDNA files. "A computerised system would also enable the department to readily supply libraries with any necessary information and would improve our services," Dr. Sharkas concluded.

FURNISHED FLATS FOR RENT

Fully-furnished one bedroom and two bedroom flats, w/w carpet, colour T.V., central heating, telephone. Two locations, Jabal Amman, near Fifth Circle and Abdali area. Phone: 673788, 672842 after 2 p.m.

Intermarkets Kuwait celebrates 10th anniversary partnership

At a reception, at the residence of Mr. Ayham Khleif, General Manager of Intermarkets Kuwait; executives from M.H. Al Shaya Company and from Intermarkets, gathered to celebrate the occasion. To mark this event, Mr. Erwin Guerroovich, President of the Intermarkets Group, presented to

the Board of M.H. Al Shaya Company, a commemorative plaque featuring the Kuwaiti show. The photograph taken during the celebration ceremony, shows from right to left, Mr. Khalid Al Shaya, Mr. Abdullah Al Shaya, Mr. Erwin Guerroovich, Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Shaya.



SALES MANAGER WANTED

A leading manufacturing plant in Jordan is interested in recruiting a sales manager with the following specifications:

- Jordanian National, Married.
- Excellent command in English and Arabic.
- A B.Sc or B.A. Degree.
- Minimum 5 years experience in sales training, sales administration, sales force control.
- Must own a car.

All applications will be dealt in strictest confidence. Photograph to P.O. Box: 926976 Amman - Jordan. If interested please send full C.V. with recent photo.



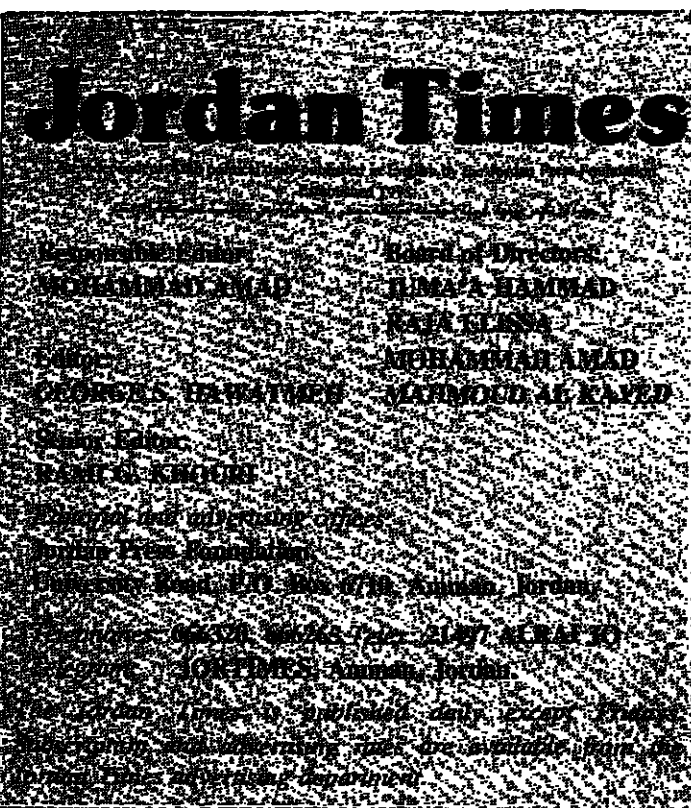
Children busy themselves browsing through a selection of books in the Department of Libraries, Documentation, and National Archives brightly

coloured reading tent which is set up in rural areas to encourage reading habits (DLDNA photo)

MIDNIGHT 'N BLUE
VERSATILE VOCAL/INSTRUMENTAL DUO

ENJOY YOURSELF
RELAXING AT THE:
OASIS LOUNGE
TO THE SWEETEST
VOICES IN JORDAN
DAILY EXCEPT FRIDAY FROM 6 PM TO 10 PM

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Compelling fairness

WE ARE keen to see the response from Israeli and American quarters to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on a diplomatic strategy aimed at a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It will take a while yet for all the details and nuances of the PLO-Jordan agreement to become known, but it seems clear already that Jordan and the PLO have committed themselves firmly, and jointly, to a negotiated peace based on the concept of the return of occupied territory in exchange for peace. This is nothing new, in fact, from the Arab perspective. Jordan, the PLO and almost everybody else in the Arab World has accepted this principle for many years. But the political muscle of Israel and the political obsequiousness of the United States have always combined to leave Arab expressions of peace unanswered by equally reasonable Israeli or American offers.

The starting point from the Israeli and American views is the absolute security of Israel. Arab recognition of Israel and the claim that the PLO does not necessarily represent the Palestinian people. To seek to negotiate peace from such a one-sided perspective is illogical and unrealistic, and that is why there has been little progress towards peace in recent years.

Now, Jordan and the PLO, backed by an impressive array of Arab and international states, are suggesting a reasonable alternative. Let Israel, the Palestinians and the other Arab states negotiate in the basis of equal rights for Palestinians and Israelis. Let there be security for both Israelis and Palestinians, and guaranteed sovereignty for all the states of the region. The element of reciprocity, balance and fairness in the Jordanian-Palestinian position should be compelling to those in the world who make a big thing of equality of all people before God and the law, due process, and the self-determination of all peoples as a sacred human right. We hope that the new Jordanian-Palestinian position is studied carefully by those who talk so much of peace, but have only approached peace-making to date from the perspective of the primacy of Israeli concerns.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Joint peaceful drive

THE JORDANIAN-Palestinian agreement on joint moves for resolving the Palestine problem opens a new stage at the local and international level for renewed efforts aimed at achieving a lasting peace. The agreement emphasises an important fact that any Arab consensus and unified position should be first based on a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

Within the context of building a unified Arab stand following the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, King Hussein made a visit to Algeria to discuss with its president ways of rallying support for the Arab cause in the international arena. The visit comes amidst a flurry of diplomatic activity launched by King Fahd in Washington, to be followed there by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Both visits and Arab-American talks are bound to achieve a positive result favouring the Arab stand.

The Arab leaders' talks with the American administration are aimed at breaking the present deadlock in the peace process, against the wishes of Israel. All Arab people wish their leaders success in their endeavours for unifying the nation's position and in coordinating efforts for reestablishing justice and peace.

Al Dustour: For a unified Arab stand

KING HUSSEIN'S visit to Algeria and his talks with President Chadli Benjedid open up a new stage in the efforts by the King to establish Arab solidarity and build a unified Arab stand in the face of all challenges and dangers the Arabs are facing at present.

The two leaders have a wide range of issues to tackle which, among others, include the Iran-Iraq war, the current situation in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's practices against the Arab citizens in South Lebanon and Palestine. No doubt both leaders will discuss the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement which forms a basis for an overall Arab diplomatic move to solve the Palestine problem.

There is no doubt that the brotherly relations and mutual respect between Jordan and Algeria will help the two leaders to discuss issues in a frank and open atmosphere which undoubtedly will contribute towards favourable solutions for Arab problems.

Both Jordan and Algeria have major roles to play in the east and the western parts of the Arab World respectively, and King Hussein and President Benjedid will no doubt exert all their efforts towards solving inter Arab differences as a basic requirement for helping the Arab Nation regain its rights.

Sawt Al Shaab: For aborting Israel's plans

THE JORDANIAN-Palestinian agreement on joint moves for establishing peace in the Middle East came as a fruit of prolonged meetings and intensive efforts on both sides. It also was a direct result of the deliberations of the Palestine National Council in Amman last November and an inevitable response to rapidly moving events and developments in the Arab and international arenas.

The agreement is designed to abort Israel's colonial plans in Palestine and to regain the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. The agreement is based on U.N. resolutions which enjoy support by the international community, and this is reason enough for its future success. The agreement reflects a deep desire by both sides to achieve peace and to put an end to Israel's expansionist aims that are designed to perpetuate occupation and evict the legitimate owners from their land in Palestine. Last but not least, the agreement should serve as a clear sign for the United States, which continues to support the Israeli enemy that both Palestinians and Jordanians are willing to walk the path of peace.

Shultz praises U.S.-Saudi understanding

Mideast talks had better begin soon, says Shultz

Following are extracts from remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz at a luncheon held in honour of King Fahd Feb. 11, 1985.

YOUR MAJESTY, we are honoured to greet you. You have come as a friend, and we have talked today as only friends can do. We have benefited from your views. Our countries have travelled far together during the past half century. Our cooperation has taken many forms but has always had the same goals — the mutual benefit of our two nations, in the context of peace and economic progress through the region.

You have spoken of your concern about the ever-present potential for violence and trouble in

the Middle East if there is not movement toward peace. We agree. The security and well-being not only of your kingdom, but of all the states of the region, require a just and lasting peace between Israel and all its Arab neighbours.

History shows there is only one road to such a peace: Direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours based on the territory-for-peace formula of Security Council Resolution 242. Negotiations work. Permanent arrangements for peace have been established in one treaty of peace.

And we will not rest until the same can be said for all the other areas affected by the Arab-Israeli conflict.

President Reagan, on Sept. 1, 1982, proposed a set of positions that could point the way to an equitable settlement. He made clear that we seek a peace that will both satisfy the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and assure the security of the state of Israel.

Our positions need not be accepted by any other party in advance of negotiations. Indeed, we would expect each party to bring its own preferred positions to the table at the outset and to press them vigorously. It is in this respect, Your Majesty, that there

could be a most useful role for the principles endorsed by the Arab summit of Fez in 1982. In know you laboured long and hard for those principles. While they differ from our own ideas in a number of important respects, they could contribute importantly to the development of the position that an Arab negotiator brings to the table.

Both President Reagan's initiative and the Fez Declaration refer to the concept of a transitional period in the West Bank and Gaza. The President described the purpose of such a period as the peaceful and orderly transfer of authority from Israel to the Palestinian inhabitants, without

interference with Israel's security requirements. Successful negotiations for a transitional period would be a major tangible step on the road to peace in the region.

I sense the region is moving steadily towards a resumption of active negotiations. We have been trying to build towards that goal, block by block, by helping arrange Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon with security for Israel's northern border, by urging continued improvement in Egyptian-Israeli relations, and by seeking to improve the quality of life for the Palestinians.

The problems that must be overcome when negotiations are joined

are monumental in their complexity — but they are not insurmountable. And it is clear that nothing will be achieved until negotiations get started.

The positions the president put forth on Sept. 1 remain as important — and urgent — today as they were then. We are ready to pursue them with great energy and determination, whenever the parties in the region are prepared to negotiate. The risks and dangers that we face in the absence of progress — on which we and Saudi Arabia agree — lead us to one crucial conclusion: The sooner negotiations begin, the better for all concerned — USIA.

U.S. declaration of independence on 'Third World'

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — A strong, new American policy has been evolving towards the "Third World." The new way was found with LOST, the most apt acronym of the postwar era — the Law of the Sea Treaty, a grab for the natural resources of the next century by the politicians representing the most backward and totalitarian nations.

The Reagan administration refused to sign LOST because it did not want the United States to become a party to the socialisation of the sea, setting up an unaccountable and self-perpetuating world bureaucracy dedicated to regulating and taxing free enterprise.

The decision to turn back from the brink of LOST infuriated the devotees of world government. Denunciations of our "lawlessness" came from the back seats of limousines with diplomatic license plates everywhere, and liberal establishmentarians here excoriated the decision to put our national self-interest and principles of a free economy ahead of "world opinion."

True, the United States was "isolated," but gained the quiet

respect of allies who recognised belatedly that the most backward nations — often manipulated by the Soviet bloc and the Arab bloc — had taken control of the United Nations. With the trap of LOST averted, President Reagan focused on the dirty little secret of the United Nations: the high living and rampant corruption in UNESCO, where Director-General Amadou Mahtar M'Bow of Senegal blew hundreds of millions on "administrative expenses" in Paris, with the U.S. tax-payers carrying most of the burden.

When we withdrew from the financing of that playpen for "Third World" diplomats and their insatiable appetites, Mr. M'Bow hired a Washington publicity firm for \$15,000 a month to whip up the usual establishment support for subsidising international organisations. The whitewash failed: the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation is so blatantly anti-freedom, anti-United States and anti-Israel that not even the most liberal knees will jerk. Britain and Singapore have followed the U.S. lead out of this organisation.

Mr. M'Bow, with some money from Libya, vows to sue America for 1985 support in the World

Court. That brings us to the third decision of Mr. Reagan in defiance of the elite that presumes to call itself "world opinion." The World Court has become a UNESCO of the law. The court's judges — mainly from "Third World" and Soviet bloc countries — are subject to pressures from back home.

Not surprisingly, the "Third World" and Soviet-bloc politicians at the Hague have reached beyond all precedent to take up the cause of the Communist regime in Nicaragua against the United States. The charges suit the propaganda of both the Soviet Union and Nicaragua.

The Reagan response to a power-grabbing World Court is the same as his response to a money-grabbing UNESCO and a resource-grabbing world bureaucracy at LOST America will not submit.

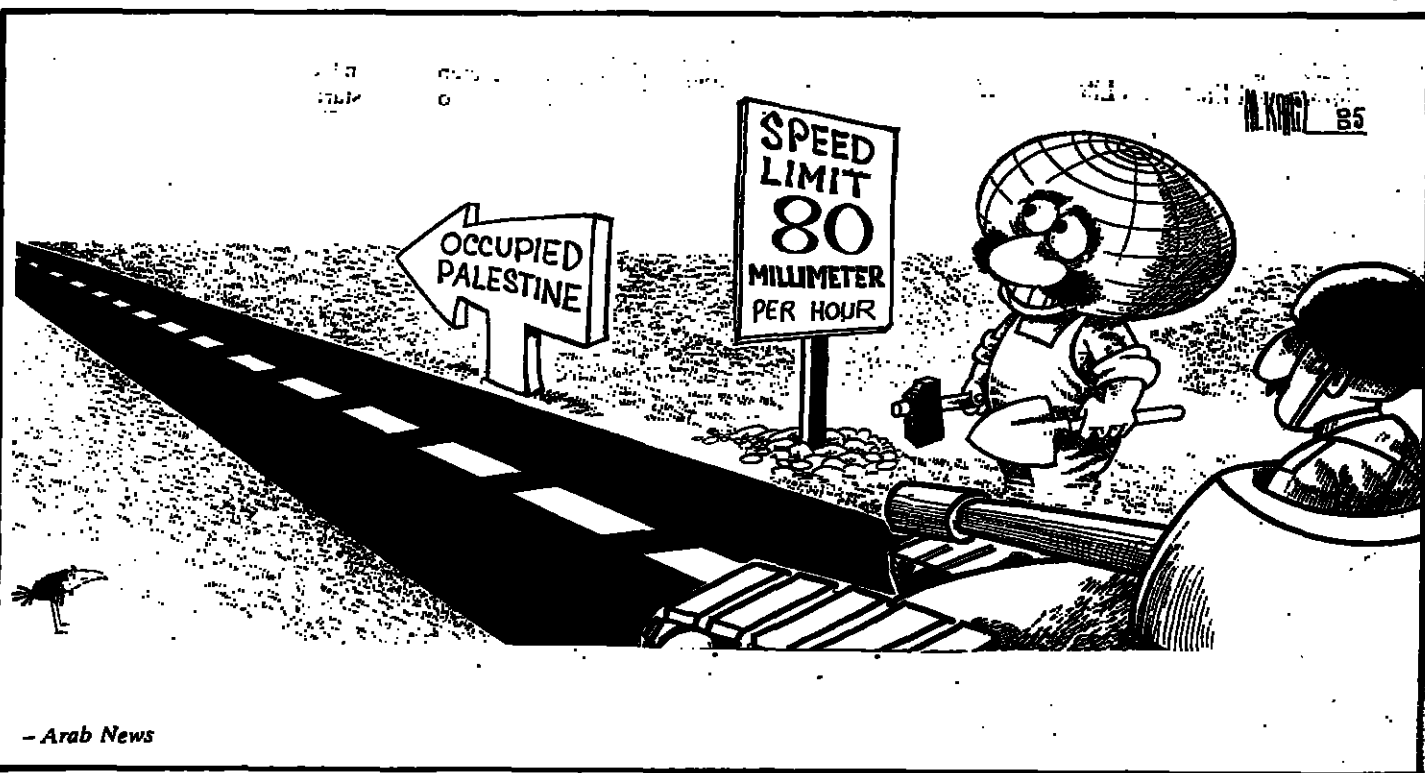
The essential reason we will not submit our national security decisions to a foreign court, or continue to finance personal and political corruption at UNESCO, or turn over the freedom and resources of the sea to the world boogymen, is this: Our national interest in freedom, justice and

democracy is far greater than our concern for an increasingly irrelevant, intolerant and often corrupt elite that claims to represent "world opinion."

That is why the taunt of Nicaragua's defenders in the United States — that our refusal to submit to the Hague court's certain judgment is an admission of guilt — has so little sting. The place for the United States to debate the morality of our methods of hemispheric defence is in the U.S. Congress, not in some Third World star chamber.

In our Declaration of Independence, "a decent respect to the opinions of mankind" compelled us to give our reasons for separation. The word "decent" in that time and context meant "fitting," but as "Third World" dictators took over international bodies, such respect ceased to be fitting.

Our new independence from backward-nation majorities will not isolate us from sensible allies. Our respect for world opinion should be measured by the "Third World's" respect for democracy and freedom, and for the superpower that makes those values possible — The New York Times.



'France's' islands outweigh their size

By Paul Treuthardt

Associated Press

PARIS — Small territories dotted across the world from the fog-bound coast of Canada to the South Pacific are all that remain of a French Empire that once controlled vast expanses of North America, Africa and Asia.

But they have economic and political importance far beyond their seeming insignificance, and violent independence demands on the Pacific island of New Caledonia has brought fears of "the contagion" spreading.

They provide nuclear test sites and a space base, conventional raw materials and agricultural wealth. They bring the vision of mining the seabed — a French seabed — for colossal mineral riches.

Politically, "overseas territories" ensures France's presence throughout the world, says an official publication. "They will become increasingly the best instruments for the diffusion of French technology, savoir faire (know how), culture and influence in their geographic zones."

French political support for Britain in the Falklands war was directly inspired by France's own island possessions. By international agreement, any island projects a 320-kilometre radius economic zone — even tiny Clipperton in the Pacific off Mexico, home to only birds and crabs.

France thus controls 11.5 million square kilometres of sea and seabed resources and remains the world's third largest oceanic

power. Close cooperation between government and industry keeps France a leader in undersea technology to exploit the situation, as oil exploration moves into deeper waters and rich fields of seabed minerals are charted.

Overseas France, with 1.6 million inhabitants, is quickly enumerated. Four "departments" — all former colonies that opted for department status in 1946 — are legally as much France as the Paris suburbs. They are the Caribbean islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe, Guiana in South America with its Kourou Base for European satellite launchers, and Reunion in the Indian Ocean.

Four territories have varying degrees of autonomy — the Polynesian islands around Tahiti and the Mururoa Atoll nuclear test ground, the central Pacific archipelagos of Wallis and Futuna, scattered Antarctic islands, and New Caledonia.

At the Mouth of Canada's St. Lawrence River, some 30 kilometres off the Newfoundland coast and 4,750 kilometres from Paris, the rock-bound islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon have been home to sturdy French fishermen since the 16th century.

Quarrels with Canada over fishing rights are unresolved. Currently also a department, its status is to change to ease trade problems with North America linked to French membership of the European Common Market.

In the Indian Ocean, the Comoro island of Mayotte has a unique, administrative status. The three

neighbouring islands, predominantly Muslim, became independent in 1974. With an important Roman Catholic influence, Mayotte voted overwhelmingly to remain French.

French officials contend no "contagion" threat exists, stressing marginal electoral results of independence advocates everywhere except New Caledonia. They like recalling that the Caribbean islands "were part of France before Nice, before Alsace and Lorraine."

Corsica, which has been French since Napoleonic times, is considered part of metropolitan, not overseas, France.

Austerity has brought complaints, but France massively supports its overseas possessions, where civil servants get up to 40 per cent extra pay. State operating expenses contribute 60 per cent of revenue in the Caribbean departments, there is no income tax in the territories, and agricultural production is heavily subsidised.

No overall figure is revealed, officially being fragmented in myriad budget entries, but grants at municipal level alone exceed \$100 million a year.

The scattered departments and territories have distinctive political patterns.

After New Caledonia, independence is a troublesome issue mainly in Guadeloupe, though advocates scored only three per cent in the last local elections. The banned Caribbean Revolutionary Alliance (ARC) has staged repeated bombings and a leading

local architect, died in the explosion of a bomb he was allegedly transporting.

Stiff sentences of five to seven years' jail were handed down recently on 10 numbers. On an island of some 340,000 people, they had 200 supporters outside the courthouse.

Nearly Martinique has a more subtle approach. Its venerated political leader, poet Aimé Césaire, has declared a moratorium on his life-long independence efforts while the island experiments with extensive powers granted under the Socialist government's decentralisation policy.

In the Pacific, Wallis and Futuna islanders are among the staunchest supporters of continued French rule. There are some protests in Tahiti against continued nuclear tests on Mururoa Atoll 1,200 kilometres away, but the military makes an important contribution to the economy. A recent visitor described the tiny independence movement in Papeete as "languid."

Reunion has achieved remarkable stability among its intimately mixed racial streams and elects the fiercely nationalistic former Premier Michel Debré to Paris.

But unemployment and great disparity in living standards pose an officially acknowledged threat of future upheaval. Some 14,000 school-leavers each year have no job prospects, and heavy unemployment in France has cut that traditional escape route from Reunion as from all of overseas France.

Unofficial diplomats can get results where governments fail

By John Rogers

Reuter

LONDON — The rare art of fringe diplomacy, practised by unofficial trouble-shooters acting in place of government envoys, has just chalked up another success.

With relations between Libya and Britain cut since last April, a Church of England emissary has won national acclaim by securing the release of four Britons detained in Libya.

Terry Waite, an aide of the Archbishop of Canterbury, went to Tripoli and patiently argued the case for freeing the detainees, acting like a diplomat but without the authority of an official envoy.

His success recalled the achievement 13 months ago of Jesse Jackson, the American pastor and black political leader who was seeking the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

Mr. Jackson visited Damascus and persuaded Syria to free a captured black U.S. airman. Although the United States and Syria have diplomatic relations, efforts by the Reagan administration and its embassy in the country had failed.

President Reagan made clear he opposed Mr. Jackson's mission but hailed its outcome, saying "you can't quarrel with success." The Reverend Waite already has a track record as an unofficial diplomat after securing the release of three British missionaries detained in Iran in 1981.

It was this success that prompted his use as a go-between with Libya — although the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government both claimed the credit for sending him to Tripoli.

The Reverend Waite's technique in Iran and Libya was similar to Mr. Jackson's in Syria: both established goodwill with authorities unwilling to make concessions to governments, but not with official representatives.

In the Reverend Waite's case, being a church representative was a useful credential when he talked with officials in Iran and Libya, both heavily influenced by militant Islam. Syria's gesture to Mr. Jackson was widely seen as an attempt to embarrass the U.S. government.

Other unofficial envoys on the diplomatic fringes have included Armand Hammer, the 86-year-old billionaire U.S. ind-

ustrialist and oilman, who has been a periodic link man between Washington and Moscow for most of this century.

Mr. Hammer, labelled "Moscow's favourite capitalist", first went to the Soviet Union in 1921 and made a fortune through trade.

He has met every Soviet leader except the late Yuri Andropov, and had access to the Kremlin in President Kennedy to send him to repair damage caused to relations after a U.S. spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union in 1960.

Two months ago, Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko met Mr. Hammer as the superpowers were renewing a dialogue after a year's freeze. Mr. Chernenko told the American that he was ready on conditions — to meet Mr. Reagan.

Moscow has also used an unofficial envoy, Victor Louis, a Moscow-based journalist with rarely-granted permission to work for Western newspapers.

He is sometimes cited as a source of information revealing the Kremlin's inner thinking and has long been regarded as an occasional trouble-shooter for the Soviet authorities.

Western governments believe the authorities sometimes use Mr. Louis to leak information they do not want to disseminate through Soviet media or diplomatic channels.

They say he has acted, on occasions, as an unofficial emissary who can have contacts closed to Soviet diplomats — in countries with which Moscow has no relations, for instance.

His name was in the limelight last year, when he was cited as the probable source of progress reports on Andrei Sakharov when the West was concerned about the health of the exiled Soviet dissident.

West European leaders sometimes use personal envoys for delicate contacts.

Roland Dumas — now France's external relations minister — carried out discreet missions for President Francois Mitterrand in Libya, Gabon and other countries from 1981 to 1983 when he was just a lawyer and member of the National Assembly.

Other forms of fringe diplomacy include sporting links, favoured by the Socialist countries, which like to separate ties between governments from those between peoples.

British capital is happy investing in U.S.

Europe plays a major role in direct foreign investment in the U.S., and Britain a dominant one. In 1978, British corporate ventures across the Atlantic did how they have progressed.

LONDON — "You have to be lucky in life," says Mr. Stanley Grinstead, the chairman of Grand Metropolitan, the U.K. hotel, drinks and leisure group.

Mr. Grinstead notes that GrandMet was very lucky with its first major U.S. acquisition, the tobacco and drinks group Liggett, in 1980. There were no nasty surprises and the company had good, but undermanaged, assets that GrandMet was able to put to work fairly quickly. It estimates that the value of the Liggett core has risen sixfold to \$1.5 billion in only four years.

This is a far cry from the popular image of British corporate ventures in the U.S. Analysts tend to look at Plessey's failure in 1971 with Alloys Unlimited, Midland Bank's troubles with Crocker National Bank, Imperial Group's problem-ridden \$630 million acquisition of Howard Johnson in 1980, and General Electric Company's unfortunate 1978 \$100 million purchase of AB Dick.

In fact, the disasters are the exceptions. Most big U.S. acquisitions by leading British companies in the past decade — and there have been many — have been remarkably successful, and the directors involved are very proud of them.

Among the outstanding examples: —Hanson Trust's U.S. base has grown through a string of acquisitions from nothing in 1973 to a turnover of over \$1.1 billion and profits of \$55 million last year.

—BOC's merger with Aircro of the U.S. in 1978 instantly doubled the turnover of the industrial gases group to \$1.2 billion (\$1.47 billion) and ensured its future as a world leader in this sector.

—Racal's acquisition of Milgo for \$64 million in 1978 transformed the structure of the electronics group and catapulted it into the leadership position in the U.S. market for high speed data communications equipment. Racal's revenues from data communications amounted to only \$8 million in the year before the Milgo acquisition. This year they should reach \$450 million, over a third of the group total.

—Cadbury Schweppes's \$58 million purchase of Peter Paul in 1978 has helped raise the group's confectionery market share in the U.S. to a respectable 10 per cent, as well as contributing significantly to profits.

There are dozens of other examples. BTR, BAT Industries, United Biscuits, Beecham, Glaxo and T.L. have all had good results from U.S. ventures.

In many cases, it has taken time

for the merit of the takeovers to show through. Measured by standard stock market ratios, companies tend to pay what look like very high prices for U.S. acquisitions. And they often suffer painful teething problems with their new U.S. operations.

Cadbury, for example, made an attempt to break into the U.S. cola market in 1980 without realising the hold that Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola had on local bottlers. After substantial losses, Cadbury scaled down its cola venture substantially.

But the dominant view in the major British companies that now have several years of experience in the U.S. is that the effort and the suffering have been worthwhile and, in some cases, vital to securing their future.

The main attractions of the U.S. for foreign industrialists have always been — and still are — the huge size and homogeneity of the market, the lack of regulation in most sectors and the political stability of the country.

However, until the 1970s, U.S. assets always seemed very expensive to foreigners and so their investment remained at modest levels. The decline of the dollar against most currencies, following its detachment from gold price in 1971, helped to change that view. Then the energy crisis hit Europe harder than the U.S., leading

many to conclude that the outlook for most sectors was more promising across the Atlantic.

Total direct foreign investment in the U.S. rose from \$20.6 billion in 1973 to \$111.4 billion last year. Europe accounts for two-thirds of this and Britain has consistently been the largest single source in Europe.

In the 1970s, British companies had other incentives to head across the Atlantic. The prospects for the domestic economy looked particularly bleak, as industrial relations worsened, and inflation soared. Exchange controls were distorting financial management decisions. Leading companies, such as BOC, Pilkington, Cadbury Schweppes and many others which once had strong international positions, were losing their grip on former colonial markets, many of which were no longer stable or growing anyway. Although Britain was just entering the European Community, markets in Europe looked inaccessible.

Sir Adrian Cadbury, chairman of Cadbury Schweppes, recalls that in 1973 about 12 per cent of group assets were in Australia, but only seven per cent in North America. "We didn't think we have our assets balanced, with our market opportunities," he says. "The assets we have are our brands, and the only way to expand is to get them into bigger markets."

Sir Leslie Smith, chairman of BOC, says the group had recognised in the early 1960s the

need to expand in the U.S. "We were mainly in areas of low growth in the Southern Hemisphere.

Also, there were technology developments coming out of the U.S., such as the use of nitrogen in food freezing, and we needed to be nearer these developments."

BOC was something of an exception in going to the U.S. for technology. Most British — and European — companies set out for America with the assumption that products, processes or services that were successful in Europe could also succeed in the U.S.

The preferred method of establishing a beach-head in the U.S. was to make an acquisition. Managers assumed that this would be less risky and costly than starting out from scratch with new plants. BOC, for example, calculated in the late 1960s that if it tried to enter the U.S. market by building an oxygen plant, it would cost \$250 million and take 10 years to get a five per cent market share.

"That was one way to go, but it was too pricey for our blood," says Sir Leslie. The acquisition responded far too slowly to the subsequent slump in demand for its products and suffered large losses.

Understandably, British executives tend to be diffident at first about imposing themselves on U.S. organisations. But they usually find, to their surprise and delight, that they have no reason to feel inferior to their U.S. counterparts.

"I embarked on this with fear and trepidation," Mr. Grinstead says of GrandMet's entry into the U.S. "There was this myth of the working breakfast and all the rest. But I think we work harder than they do." He now avoids working breakfasts as much as he can.

Mr. Brian Knightley, finance director of Babcock, comments: "American managers have a lot of style, but they don't pay enough attention to detail. Their business schools teach them about receivables but not cash management. Until this last recession, they have not had to live with the kind of problems we have had." Mr. Knightley says Aircro had 150 people in its headquarters when Babcock took it over. Now there are only 45 and they run other Babcock interests too.

BOC had the advantage of a business relationship with Aircro since 1967. "We knew that the management was highly centralised," Sir Leslie says. "That has changed dramatically and the company is sharper commercially and technologically. Most of the people in positions of influence at Aircro have come in the last five years."

Companies believe, as a rule, that the senior executives in their U.S. subsidiaries should be American, but they have not hesitated, when they felt necessary, to send

anti-trust charges levelled against Babcock when it was bidding for American Chain and Cable in 1976. "He told me, 'Company chairmen believe they should trace every yard of the fall of every sparrow. Remember, it is not a crime in this country to be an idiot, to know nothing and to be chairman of Babcock.'"

And many companies made the mistake of assuming that existing managers would carry on loyally until the newcomers acquired a more intimate understanding of the environment.

In fact, the existing top managers usually — and understandably — lost interest in the business immediately either because they no longer had an equity interest or because they missed their previous independence.

One company chairman still regrets having agreed to leave the former owner-chief executive in charge. "The day he got our cheque, he turned off," the chairman said. The acquisition responded far too slowly to the subsequent slump in demand for its products and suffered large losses.

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Companies believe, as a rule, that the senior executives in their U.S. subsidiaries should be American, but they have not hesitated, when they felt necessary, to send

in British executives. In BOC's case, the problem did not arise, because the managing director of Aircro, Mr. Dick Giordano, became managing director of the whole group.

Many British companies that invested in the U.S. in the 1970s planned to retain U.S. quotations for the shares of the companies they acquired, with a view to raising equity and making further acquisitions without having to worry about U.K. exchange and dividend controls.

In the event, none has done so, thanks in large part to the elimination of exchange and dividend controls in Britain. Also, those that took over quoted companies acquired an instant dislike of the Securities and Exchange Commission's stringent disclosure requirements. "The worst thing is having to report quarterly, because it is misleading for shareholders," Mr. Grinstead says.

Companies have found that they can get access to funds abroad in many other ways. Cadbury, for example, has just raised \$95 million in a successful issue of depositary receipts for its shares in the U.S. market.

The other unpleasant discovery made by the pioneers across the Atlantic was the Americans' sensitivity to indications of corporate collusion.

"It was a nasty surprise to find out how extraordinarily litigious the U.S. is," Sir Leslie Smith says. "U.S. managers won't even have a game of golf with a competitor. It is inconceivable to a British industrial manager. It affects your relationships with customers and employees too."

The proof of British companies' overall satisfaction with their U.S. investments is that most have gone on to make more of them, both through takeovers and direct plant investments. GrandMet, for example, followed its Liggett purchase in 1980 with that of Intercontinental Hotels in 1981 and Children's World last year.

And Mr. Grinstead is already looking for another. "We would like to bring our U.S. profit stream in line with that from the U.K.," he says.

Even these, such as Northern Foods, which had a very rocky ride with its first U.S. acquisition, Bluebird, in 1979, have tended to go back for more. Northern's second U.K. takeover, Keystone Foods, in late 1982 was a winner from the start.

Executives agree that Britain is now a much better place in which to invest than a decade ago, but the fundamental attractions of the U.S. — its size, stability and growth prospects — continue to loom large — Financial Times news feature.

Randa Habib's Corner

G.R. visits "Habby Days"

SIGNS FULL of spelling mistakes displayed shamelessly on the sides of streets always manage to make me burst into laughter. The other day while driving home, my bad mood was miraculously cured when just before reaching the Seventh Circle coming down the Sixth, I saw a sign which read "To LOT" on both sides. This was enough to make me laugh.

"Chanzalze," the boutique on the Jebel Weibdeh circle never failed to make me laugh, neither the barber shop "G.R." in the same neighbourhood. As for "Habby Days Botique" and "Arabic Bension" ... these signs are still there.

I don't always have to go to the street to amuse myself. The menu cards in some restaurants are no better than shop signs.

I carefully copied for you this menu from a cafe trottoire in Shmeisani. You can check it by yourselves if you happen to go there.

The Mille Feuilles and the Eclair are Malfie and Claire.

The menu also offered:

Petit Four dish; burre; sfeha; sugar cane juice; capatshino; nargeelee agame; tonty frouty; beach melba; chokolamou; Vanniella milk juice.

Marvellous, don't you think so?

Although this street-side cafe and is agreeable, well situated, nicely decorated, and the owners must have spent a fortune to establish it, surely they could have found a literate person to write the menu properly.

And of course, this is only an example of what you could find.

Numbers down but spirits up at Osios Loukas Monastery

By Bruce Clark
Retur

OSIOS LOUKAS MONASTERY, Greece — Twice a day for the last 1,000 years, Greek Orthodox monks have celebrated the beautiful liturgy of their church in Osios Loukas Monastery, a showpiece of Byzantine art and architecture.

In the 13th century there were 400 monks attached to it. But now there are only 10 and sometimes as few as three are in residence, swamped in the tourist season by coachloads of visitors to the site on the brow of a hill 160 kilometres west of Athens.

In summer, about 500 a day pay 50 drachmas (38 U.S. cents) to see the main church, the Crypt of St. Barbara and the smaller church of the Virgin, and to admire the breathtaking view over olive groves and dark green mountains.

"It's fine that people should come, but they should show some respect for the place," Father Nicodemus, the 30-year old abbot, told Reuters.

"They come here half-naked and sometimes they climb over the Holy Table. We would like to say it doesn't disturb us, but I'm afraid it does," he said.

But despite the low numbers of monks and the tourist invasion, Father Nicodemus is not pessimistic about the future. "On the contrary, there is a cautious optimism," he says.

There are still times when Osios Loukas comes into its own. Grand services attended by local dignitaries, mayors, prefects and army commanders, take place amidst the gold-backed mosaics and many-shaded marble walls of the main church, built in 1020.

That is only on religious or national holidays — a distinction hard to make in this country where the pre-eminent role of Orthodoxy is enshrined in the constitution.

In between, the metropolitan, or bishop, of nearby Livadia organises seminars for local doctors, engineers, scientists and other professional groups on social or scientific issues. The Anglican Church in Athens holds retreats at the monastery.

There are ambitious plans for an Orthodox studies centre that would draw people from all over the world. Because of this, any

monks admitted in future must have degrees in theology.

But the stream of tourists is putting people off, the abbot said. "We have had a number of enquiries from qualified people, but they decided against when they saw the state of affairs."

For the last 25 years, responsibility for the buildings has been in the hands of the archaeological service. The service is a section of the Ministry of Culture which is now headed by Melina Mercouri.

Being under the archaeological service has meant that the extensive repair work of recent years, funded jointly by the monastery and the state, has required the archaeologists' approval. The monks technically need state permission to hold services in the main church.

"We regret this," said Father Nicodemus. "We find it deplorable that in an Orthodox state, we should not have responsibility over our church."

But he said cooperation between monastery and state was normally smooth thanks to good will on both sides. "After all, they have a knowledge of engineering and architecture which we don't have," he added.

Mass tourism is only one of the trials the monastery has endured since it was founded in 941 by Loukas, an Aseptic.

In the 13th century, marauding Franks stole the founder's bones. In 1659, an earthquake damaged the dome and its mosaic. In 1980, four 16th century icons were stolen and never found.

But Osios Loukas, closely linked to the imperial court in Byzantine days, seems to have attained great wealth by the time in 1821 when it became a starting-point for the Greek revolt against the Ottoman Empire. The monks tore up the ancient library to make touch-paper for Greek cannon.

They fled to Aegina Island in 1822 with 8,000 sheep and goats and 200 horses. The monks have since transferred most of the estate to landless farmers, but they still farm a little.

On a sunny day in January, Father Kyriakos, 46, was proudly displaying his tractor, while another Father Nicodemus, 70, was mourning the loss in a snow-storm of trees he had planted.

1985 is 'year of suit' for Paris designers

By Peggy Massin
Retur

PARIS — This is the "year of the suit" for Paris haute couture designers, almost all of whom showed easy going tailored suits in their spring and summer collections.

All-time favourite Yves Saint-Laurent reiterated his highly-successful semi-classic approach, showing both slim knee-length skirts often buttoned in the back or simple mannish trousers with infinitely varied jackets.

Guy Laroche showed some beautifully tailored suits in classic navy blue-with-white, an approach shared by Saint-Laurent who added a nautical air with gold or silver metal buttons.

The most applauded dresses were plain, black crepe de Chine sheaths, some adorned with large rhinestone buttons, wide-cuff bracelets and chandelier earrings.

Other dresses played with soft drapery, side-wrapped surplice effects or deep covered hoods falling into a flattering low neckline. A clue to the theme of each collection is often found in the cla-

borate floral decorations prepared for the show and this year was no exception.

Towering palm trees dripping with tropical flowers underlined Saint-Laurent's new South Sea island look.

Mannequins with long hair flowing down their backs swayed down the catwalk in sarong draped silk prints with sensuously plunging necklines.

Others wearing solid toned draped jersey dresses stepped out with short boleros embroidered with exotic ferns and orchids. This matched the fresh flowers tucked in the hair at one side.

The Saint-Laurent bride, in filmy white organza, ignored the traditional wedding veil and wore in its place a wreath of white orchids.

In Laroche's collection, the bride was a prototype of the "high-low" hemlines seen in much of his evening wear.

The gown was a short, knee-length sheath in white taffetas with an enormous bow at the back. Its wide streamers flowed down to the floor to contrive the train.

Jaguars rival tigers as expert swimmers, lead a secretive life

By Joy Aschenbach

WASHINGTON — When it comes to status, the jaguar — the cat, not the car — can't compete with the three other big cats, the lion, tiger, and leopard, the jaguar's closest relative.

Its image problem lies in the nature of the beast. The world's largest spotted cat leads a very secretive life in thickly forested jungles in inhospitable lands, from Mexico south into Argentina. It is one of the most mysterious of all large cats, and one of the most threatened. No one knows for sure how many are left.

Fearing and revered, the jaguar has a reputation as a killer. The instinctive reaction that still prevails among people deep in the interior of Brazil, for example, is to shoot "el tigre" on sight — not get to know him.

During the three years that wildlife biologist Howard Quigley spent there studying the animal, more jaguars were killed in the wild than were captured for research. "It's considered macho," he says.

Dr. Quigley's research — the first to focus on a jaguar family — found that jaguars rival, and possibly surpass, tigers in at least one arena: water. They have no fear of piranhas and caimans, are remarkably good swimmers, and can easily cross five-mile aquatic expanses.

In the swampy Pantanal region of southwestern Brazil, they must swim to survive. In the rainy season, more than 70 per cent of the nearly 25 million acres of savanna are under water for as much as six months of the year.

"Jaguars have no problem going from one patch of forest to another through water six feet deep to find prey," says Dr. Quigley. "They can swim a mile or two in a night."

The jaguars' affinity for water, he explains, is substantiated by where they tend to live. The animals are more numerous in the wetter parts of the Pantanal, while mountain lions and pumas are more prevalent in drier habitats.

But swimming can be fatal, too. He says boaters shot two swimming jaguars and left them to be devoured by piranhas.

Dr. Quigley's research is a continuation of the jaguar ecology project begun in 1977 by Dr. George B. Schaller, director of the New York Zoological Society's Animal Research and Conservation Centre, and Peter G. Crawshaw, Jr., a Brazilian research biologist.

Because of the extreme difficulties in finding and tracking jaguars, Dr. Quigley's year in the Pantanal stretched into three. His study, the basis of his doctoral work at the University of Idaho, was centred on a privately owned 600,000-acre ranch.

In the steamy heat of Brazil's Mato Grosso, even the plants are inhospitable. "If the bugs don't bite you or sting you, then the plants will stick you," says Dr. Quigley, whose lip was torn open by a bamboo spine when he was tracking a jaguar on horseback.

There are no common jaguar trails in the Pantanal. Only dogs could successfully sniff out jaguars. It took from five to seven trained dogs to corner one jaguar. When the dogs closed in, the jaguar, an excellent climber, would head up a tree.

"We'd pull the dogs away and shoot the jaguar with a tranquilliser. Then we'd climb the tree ourselves and lower the animal by ropes. It's very impressive, having a 200-pound jaguar asleep at your feet. You could feel its power," says Dr. Quigley.

Once the animals were fitted with radio collars, another logistics battle began — keeping up with them. "They move much faster than we do, and they don't have to get into a canoe or saddle a horse first," he says. "What we wanted to do was just stay within radio contact with them."

Ultimately Dr. Quigley took to the air — flying after the jaguars in light planes. At that, he felt lucky to be able to keep an animal within range for 24 hours at a time.

What he learned of the jaguar's lifestyle came mainly from one

family: Mother, her pair of offspring named Dr. Wonderful and Felicia, and a later offspring called Felix.

Jaguars are most active when their prey are active, at dawn and dusk. They feed primarily on cattle, calves, capybara (the world's largest rodent), and peccaries (wild pigs). Hunted for killing ranch cattle, jaguars are increasingly forced to feed on them because the habitats of their other prey are being gobbled up by development. Jaguars also are "the only predator powerful enough to take down an adult steer."

Mother apparently taught her young to hunt. In one 12-hour period, she and Felix killed three peccaries, more than would have been needed just for food, Dr. Quigley says.

Extensive ranges

Young jaguars stay within their mother's protection until they are 18 to 20 months old, venturing off only short distances. Males then are forced to disperse, but females are tolerated within their mother's range to live and breed. Dr. Wonderful established a home range some 20 miles away.

Jaguars (Panthera onca) are solitary animals that come together only during breeding season. Courting jaguars travel and kill together. Dr. Quigley estimates that each jaguar needs a range of 12,000 to 24,000 acres.

It would be difficult, he said, for most countries to set aside such extensive areas for conservation. But Brazil has the land, resources, and opportunity.

The jaguar's range is shrinking throughout Central and South America. The animal has been hunted to extinction in several countries. It once lived as far north as the southwestern United States, but no viable breeding populations are known to exist there today. Occasionally a jaguar will straddle the border from Mexico.

Brazilian protection efforts will be too late for Mother and Felix, Dr. Quigley notes. They were killed last year by persons unknown. — National Geographic feature.



A tranquillised jaguar is a rare sight in the jungles of Brazil. One of the most mysterious of the large cats, the jaguar leads a secretive life that is difficult to

study in the wild. It took biologist Howard Quigley three years to track the animals for research (National Geographic photo)

Edberg upsets Lendl

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (R) — Stefan Edberg of Sweden ousted top seed Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia 6-4, 7-6, Tuesday in their rain-delayed fourth-round match in the \$1.8 million International Players Tennis Championships.

In the women's quarter-finals, 15-year-old Steffi Graf of West Germany kept up the pattern of upsets when she dispatched 13th seed Andrea Temesvari of Hungary 6-2, 6-1 in just 47 minutes as strong winds again effected play.

The 19-year-old Edberg, seeded 13th, was leading 6-4, 5-6 on service when the match was halted by heavy rain Monday.

Edberg, the only member of the champion Davis Cup team to gain the quarter-finals, held service after Lendl netted a set-point for-ehand. He won the tiebreaker 7-4.

Lendl became the 12th of the original 16 seeded players to be eliminated before the quarter-finals, but he did not blame the weather conditions for his loss.

"It was the same for everyone. When we began again I thought I'd try my best to break his serve and go to a third set," Lendl said. "His serve sets up everything, and he doesn't miss many first serves."

Edberg, who watched his teammates Mats Wilander, seeded second, and fourth seed Anders Jarryd ousted Monday as the wind played havoc with their baseline games, said he had never played better.

"I'm very surprised with the way I'm playing," he said. "I've never played better in my life. I'm serving well and I'm playing more from the baseline, too. I'm not making the mistakes I used to."

Edberg added that his victories over Jimmy Connors and Yannick Noah of France in the U.S. National Indoor Championships last month had helped his confidence.

"I won in Memphis and that helped my confidence a lot. The idea is to play a lot of matches, to win matches and get confidence. I feel now I can win every match," he said.

Edberg will face unseeded American Scott Davis in the quarter-finals.

Graf said she just "tried to put the ball in the court" as Temesvari made many unforced errors in what the Hungarian called "unfathomable wind conditions." Graf won five games in a row from 2-2 in the first set.

Ninth seed Yannick Noah of France became the only survivor among the top 10 seeds when he turned back unseeded American Sammy Giammalva 6-3, 6-4 to reach the quarter-finals.

The two top women players, Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert Lloyd, gained the semifinals in matches made difficult by winds gusting to 60 kph.

Noah, who broke Giammalva's service in the sixth game of the first set and beat him 3-2 in second-set breaks, said he was not satisfied with his play. "The wind conditions were so tough it was hard to tell how I played," he said. "But I do the best I can to win and I don't care how I win."

He refused to consider himself the favourite to take the \$112,500 first prize in the final on Sunday. "I don't feel like a favourite. There is none. Nobody can beat anybody else. Nobody will have an easy match," he said.

Navratilova defeated Bettina Bunge of West Germany 6-4, 6-4, while Lloyd, seeded second to Navratilova, was forced to rally to get by 12th seeded American Barbara Potter 4-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Navratilova said, "it was almost unplayable. They could have called the matches off."

Navratilova made allowances for the conditions. "I had to change my serve to compensate for the wind," she said. "I used a low toss and a quick motion. The dust and the cold, plus the wind, was so bad I didn't even perspire."

Bunge came out of the match saying, "hopefully it will give me confidence for the next time I play her. I'm pretty happy with the way I played."

Lloyd had a closer call than Navratilova as Potter led 4-3 in the second set and had Lloyd down 0-30.

"I was very lucky to get out of the match," Lloyd said.

World chess game cancelled

MOSCOW (R) — The next game in the marathon world chess title match between champion Anatoly Karpov and challenger Garry Kasparov was cancelled Wednesday and Soviet chess sources said the move was linked to Karpov's psychological condition.

Championship officials said the President of the International Chess Federation (FIDE), Florencio Campomanes, personally ordered the cancellation of game 49 in the series, which was due to have been played Wednesday.

The officials said Campomanes had arrived in Moscow two days ago to oversee the match at first hand and to hold talks with championship organisers.

Soviet chess sources said the game was cancelled because Karpov was feeling under increasingly intense psychological pressure in the series, which has lasted five months and is by far the longest in championship history.

Karpov, 33, leads Kasparov, 21, by five games to three and needs only one more win to retain his title. But Kasparov has won the last two games and chess experts said Karpov's form had noticeably declined in recent weeks.

One Soviet chess source told Reuters there were reports that Karpov, the titleholder since 1975, wanted the series postponed, possibly until as late as next September, in order to recover his health.

The source noted that in the 1978 title match against his arch-rival Viktor Korchnoi in the Philippine city of Baguio, Karpov fell ill when leading by five games to two.

U.S. basketball stars raise funds for famine relief

By John B. Holway

WASHINGTON — America's best professional basketball players plan to raise \$100,000 for Ethiopian famine relief when they put on their annual all-star game, which this year was held February 10 in Indianapolis. The players are donating all the pay they received for the game, about \$50,000, and the U.S. National Basketball Association will give the rest.

It's the idea of basketball player Alex English, who watched a television programme on the famine, and then said, "We've got to do something to help those people."

English is vice president of the professional players' association, and suggested that the players donate their pay for the game — from \$1,500 to \$2,500 per man.

The players' association laid the proposal before all the stars who were considered likely to be chosen for the all-star game. "To a man, they were all positive," says Charles Grantham, executive vice president of the association.

"I was in the Western Sahara several years back," basketball star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar told a news conference recently, "and when you have first-hand experience in a situation like this, it really brings it home. You can almost see the hopelessness in people's eyes."

The association hoped the all-star game will be only a first step. The Los Angeles Clippers have already staged a "night" in honour of their scoring star, Norm Nixon. The club donated \$100 to the Ethiopian relief effort for every point

Norm scored. He scored 27.

"We're just getting started," says Grantham. "We hope to get the world of sport rolling and gather some momentum. The players will ask the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), which will televise the championship playoffs in April, to make a contribution, as well as the companies which advertise on the basketball telecasts. Several players have volunteered to make public service announcements to be shown during the games, asking for public support for the relief programme."

English says he knew hunger when he was growing up with 12 brothers and sisters and cousins in the state of South Carolina.

He starred at basketball for the University of South Carolina, set a scoring record there that still stands and majored in English. He is a published poet and composed a poem on the famine after he saw the television show.

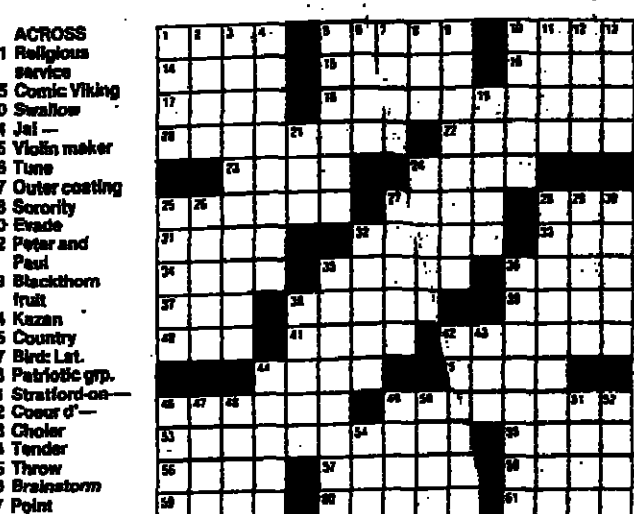
Now in his ninth year in professional basketball, English, who plays for the Denver Nuggets, led the league in scoring two years ago with a 28-point per-game average.

Another basketball star, Julius Erving, nicknamed "Dr. J," told a news conference that "we're just trying to do our fair share."

Earvin "Magic" Johnson, another star player, added that people in some U.S. black neighbourhoods "are having a hard time. But in Ethiopia, we're talking about children who are going to die if they don't get proper nourishment." — USA.

THE Daily Crossword

by Frank Garry



ACROSS
1 Religious service
5 Comic Viking
10 Sealoff
14 Jet
15 Violin maker
16 Tune
17 Outer coating
18 Scarcity
20 Budge
22 Peter and Paul
23 Blackthorn
24 Kusan
25 Country
27 Bird Lat.
28 Patriotic gr.
31 Stratford-on-Avon
32 Coward
33 Choler
34 Tender
35 Throw
36 Breastform
37 Point
38 Liqueur
39 Formatted drink
40 Mormon
41 Elysium
42 Finn
43 Wary; var.
45 Vague
46 Gallies
47 Rattlesnake
48 Serbian city
49 Copycat
50 "— in an island"
51 "The Razor's"
52 Scurvy out
53 Like some sounds
54 Echew
57 Strange
58 Abrupt
59 Of a surface
60 Eng. author
61 Charter
62 Change
63 Obliquely
64 Fancies
65 Talks up again
66 Deepness
67 Sail
68 File

DOWN
1 Planet
2 Ostrich Lat.
3 Violent desert
4 Winds
5 Moonlighting career
6 File

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

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1. CONDUIT
2. AVOID
3. TOWNE
4. ALARM
5. DUPE
6. IDEA
7. TAININ
8. OFFER
9. LINDY
10. BENT
11. HOLES
12. DENIAL
13. SIBET
14. CRIS
15. AERIAL
16. INDIO
17. NOAH
18. ORIENT
19. NEW
20. CIVIL
21. BENT
22. SINEP
23. MATE
24. EDIS
25. BOMB
26. TUSSEIN
27. LITHE
28. ASH
29. SKEET
30. ONTARIO
31. BIRD
32. HENIA
33. DIBBY
34. TLEIN
35. OMER
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Kuwait draws plan to revive economy

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Tuesday unveiled proposals by a state-appointed "think-tank" to help the economy adjust to the end of the oil boom and overcome a local debt crisis.

The plan, submitted to the crown prince last week, suggests steps to relieve the banking system of some of the outstanding debts from a local stock market crash, and to revive the share market which collapsed under a \$90 billion debt mountain in August 1982.

Both the official exchange and a now-defunct unofficial market collapsed after post-dated cheques used to fund forward deals in an unprecedented speculative boom started to bounce.

The proposed recovery plan also urges steps to protect local industry, particularly construction firms, against foreign competition and alleged dumping of cheap products.

Oil and finance minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah outlined the measures to local media editors Monday night and they were published Tuesday by the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

Sheikh Ali heads the "think-tank", which also includes the minister of commerce and industry, the central bank governor, the director of the stock exchange and commercial bank and other private sector representatives.

KUNA said the experts proposed that a new company or group of companies be formed to administer doubtful debts to commercial banks on funds borrowed for share speculation.

Banking sources close to the committee told Reuters the amount involved and the method of deciding precisely what debts should be transferred to the "lifeline" had yet to be decided.

The new scheme would ap-

arently operate outside a debt settlement and arbitration system already in use to clear the backlog of post-dated cheque debts, most of which has had to be watered down.

This debt to a large extent represented an informal credit system outside the banking network's formal lending portfolios.

The committee also proposed ways to stimulate stock market activity through fresh investment, in a bid to reverse a price slide which has dragged stock values to less than half their level when the market peaked in mid-1982.

To achieve this, it recommended creation of a broad-based ring of market-makers — recognised financial bodies or persons who carry a ready inventory of stock and are able consistently to make buy and sell quotes for a range of issues.

The minister said the experts also proposed that prices for real estate, another speculative market which had slumped as a result of the debt crisis, should be regulated on properties not tied to commitments subject to stock market settlement schemes.

KUNA did not spell out details of these steps, or proposed measures to create a duty free zone and simplify trade licensing and port control procedures.

It said steps would be taken to reduce Kuwait's reliance on foreign construction firms by reserving state and public sector work for local groups where possible. If outside firms were needed, they would have to give priority to local materials.

Sheikh Ali estimated the economy grew around 3.3 per cent last year, well below the rapid growth achieved in the 1970s, and said the downturn in oil markets and Gulf war had taken their toll on trade.

BIS analyses foreign lending

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — Commercial banks were still wary of making foreign loans a full two years after the debt crisis rocked the banking world, according to figures published Wednesday by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

Loans by major banks to countries away from their home base rose a modest \$2.5 billion in the first half of 1984. The strength of the dollar, which cut the dollar value of loans in other currencies, was one reason for this limited rise.

But the BIS said even taking a constant value for the dollar the rise would have been only \$6 billion, well below a \$10 billion increase a year earlier, when the debt crisis meant old bank loans were not being repaid.

Some debtor countries were being prudent and holding back on new borrowing. Others, helped by rising exports, needed less new funds, it said.

The picture drawn by the BIS varies widely from country to country.

Brazil and Mexico, the two biggest debtor nations to face financial difficulties in 1982, started getting new bank loans after agreeing to austerity measures supervised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

But Western commercial banks were still holding back towards Argentina, where agreement with the IMF came much later and after much tougher negotiations, and towards countries in Eastern Europe.

Nonetheless, the figures show that banks were gradually len-

gthening the maturity of their lending, a tentative sign of greater confidence.

In Latin America, banks increased their lending to Brazil in the first six months of 1984 by \$3.5 billion, to \$64.5 billion. Mexico got \$1 billion of extra funds for a total \$70.3 billion and Chile an additional \$500 million for a total of \$13 billion.

But lending to Argentina fell \$1 billion to \$25.8 billion.

"After a pause during the second half of 1983, claims on Eastern European countries resumed their downward trend," the BIS said.

The \$2.1 billion fall, to \$48.2 billion, came mainly as a result of reduced lending to Poland, which owed commercial banks \$9.6 billion at the end of June 1984, \$1.3 billion less than six months earlier.

But the BIS said this figure was inflated by exchange rate changes

and probably by Western banks writing off loans or by transferring claims to their national export credit agencies — making them government claims, not those of commercial banks.

Lending to members of OPEC, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, also fell, by \$1.2 billion. But here too the pattern was varied.

Indonesia and Iraq each had \$700 million more from the banks, while lending to both Nigeria and Venezuela fell by the same amount.

New lending to developed countries was up, with Australia, Greece and Finland getting most of the new funds.

Lending to non-OPEC countries in Africa and the Middle East showed little change, while lending in Asia edged lower in dollar terms as the dollar strengthened.

Expatriates in S. Arabia may lose \$6m

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Millions of dollars in personal losses are faced by expatriate workers in Saudi Arabia, primarily Americans, who deposited money with a non-bank foreign currency and precious metals trader before it filed bankruptcy papers in the United States late last year, it was reported here Wednesday.

Saudi-based creditors of Deak-Perera International Banking Corp. of Stamford, Connecticut, told the Associated Press that some 1,000 current and repatriated foreign workers stand to lose as much as \$6 million in checking accounts and certificates of deposit.

The U.S.-registered company, also known as Depebanco, failed for protection from creditors under chapter 11 of the U.S. bankruptcy code last Dec. 6, along with Deak and Co., its parent holding company, and another firm, Deak-Perera Wall Street, Inc.

Local creditors here have for-

med a group known as the Expatriate Financial Action Committee (EFAC), based in Dammam, to seek recovery of the Depebanco funds in the New York bankruptcy case, said EFAC members, who refused to be identified.

EFAC is represented on the creditors' committee of the Depebanco case by Mr. C. Kenneth Cooper, the president of a financial management services company in Stamford and the father of a local creditor. EFAC members said they will feel "fortunate" to recoup 50 per cent of their deposits.

So far, approximately 150 creditors from throughout the kingdom — with combined verified exposure of between \$2.1 million and \$2.5 million — have joined EFAC and given it power of attorney to represent them in the bankruptcy action, an EFAC spokesman in Dammam told AP.

The spokesman said individual exposure ranges from \$100 to \$250,000 and that many of the local creditors had deposited their savings from years of labour in the kingdom with Depebanco.

Of 1,000 current and repatriated Saudi-based depositors listed by Depebanco, addresses were available for only two-thirds, EFAC members said. As more creditors came to the fore, total local exposure was expected to go as high as \$6 million, members said.

EFAC members said they chose to deposit money with Depebanco because it offered the convenience of U.S.-based banking with local service and because they believe the corporation was a registered federally insured bank. It was not a bank and was not insured, but according to a Depebanco statement "maintained credit balances for foreign residents to facilitate financial transactions."

Depebanco's representative in Saudi Arabia was Al Hoty Investments, a Saudi-owned subsidiary of the Al Hoty Est-

ablishment managed by American David Valle.

Al Hoty Investments was ordered by the Saudi ministry of commerce last April to cease operation because it was not licensed to conduct banking services, a spokesman for the company was quoted last week as saying to the newspaper Saudi Gazette.

An EFAC spokesman said local Depebanco creditors withdrew \$13.5 million from the Stamford non-bank when its Saudi agent closed shop. Those creditors who did not pull their funds at that time were vulnerable when the chapter 11 filing occurred in December.

EFAC members also charge that Depebanco filed with the bankruptcy court the day after the company received some 47 payroll checks totalling an estimated \$250,000 from creditors who are employees of the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) and have their salary checks automatically deposited with Depebanco.

Depebanco's representative in Saudi Arabia was Al Hoty Investments, a Saudi-owned subsidiary of the Al Hoty Est-

Israel sees tragedy in EC enlargement

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — President Chaim Herzog of Israel on Tuesday said Spain and Portugal's admission to the European Community (EC) could mean economic disaster for Israel, and he appealed for "remedial arrangements" to protect Israeli agricultural exports to Europe.

In an emotional address to the European Parliament, Mr. Herzog said: "I appeal from this rostrum to you and through you to the countries of the EC not to close your eyes to a problem which, if not tackled, could turn into a tragedy."

Spain and Portugal are scheduled to join the EC sometime next year, but final accords have not been worked out.

Mr. Herzog said that if the Community does not take Israel's interests into consideration, the admission of the Iberian countries would threaten "the social and economic basis of Israel's all important agricultural sector" and with it the "dreams of generations."

Israel, which is in the midst of an economic crisis, has no alternative markets outside Europe for its citrus products, strawberries and flowers, he said.

Sudan devalues pound

KHARTOUM (AP) — Economically strapped Sudan devalued its currency by 19 per cent on Tuesday, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) announced. Central bank governor Mr. Farouq Al Magboul said in a press statement that the fixed official exchange rate for the Sudanese pound was being lowered to 2.5 pounds to the U.S. dollar from 2.1 pounds, SUNA reported. Mr. Al Magboul said in the statement the move was aimed at encouraging exports to help reduce Sudan's balance of payments deficit.

Central banks check dollar's record rises

LONDON (R) — The galloping dollar was held in check Wednesday by persistent rumours that the Japanese, West German and possibly the U.S. central banks were back in the foreign exchange market selling "greenbacks."

In Asian and European markets Wednesday the dollar was held below the 13-year high of 3.30 marks it reached briefly in after-hours European trading Tuesday in the absence of central bank intervention.

In London Wednesday, before the North American market reopened after a partial closure Tuesday for the Lincoln's birthday holiday, the dollar was quoted at around 3.2925 marks.

Earlier, traders in Tokyo had reported heavy selling of dollars by the Bank of Japan on its own account, and possibly also on behalf of the U.S. Federal Reserve.

As European money centres opened up, the dollar was hit by

reports from some traders in Frankfurt that the Bundesbank, the West German central bank, was back in the market too. In the wake of the reports the dollar dropped to 3.27 marks, but it quickly recovered in active but nervous business.

In Tokyo, Bank of Japan governor Mr. Satoshi Sumita told a press conference Wednesday that the central bank would intervene actively to defend the yen against the dollar.

The dollar closed in Asia at 262.50 yen after briefly reaching a 27-month high of 263.65 yen before the Bank of Japan stepped in.

At Wednesday's official currency fixing the Bundesbank sold a relatively modest \$9.4 million as the U.S. currency, for the eighth successive day, was fixed at a new high against the mark in the 12-year history of floating exchange rates. The dollar was set at 3.2894 marks.

Gandhi promises to end black market economy

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Wednesday his government was committed to stamping out "black" money — income not declared to the tax authorities — which he said was eroding India's domestic economy.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Mr. Gandhi as saying at Alwar city in the western state of Rajasthan the government would deal sternly with people who used illegal money in business to generate more wealth.

"The laws will be suitably amended to deal effectively with the problem of black money," he said.

Mr. Gandhi was addressing a public meeting to launch his Congress (I) Party's campaign for elections to state assemblies in early March.

University economists say India's black economy is one of the largest and most flourishing in the world, amounting to an estimated \$60 billion a year.

No official estimate is available, since the money is by definition outside official channels.

Economists say the money is used to buy mainly gold, jewellery, property and smuggled goods, including video cassette recorders and cassettes and a wide range of consumer products.

They said the government, which is due to present its 1985/86 budget next month, was expected to announce tough measures to curb "black" money.

Mr. Gandhi, who returned to power after a landslide win in national parliamentary polls last December, has promised to provide a clean administration and cut bureaucratic delays.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities closed firm on institutional demand after a cautiously traded session with movements in sterling remaining the centre of attention, dealers said.

The FTSE 100 index at 1530 GMT was up 7.8 at 1280.9. BOC firmed 14p to 306 after reporting first quarter results slightly above market expectations while ICI gained 5p to 864, Plessey added 6p to 166 and GEC rose 6p to 196.

Government bonds halved initial half point gains as the dollar resumed its upward trend while gold shares remained firm with the steady bullion price. North Americans were mixed.

The 11 per cent exchequer loan stock 1990 was undersubscribed at Wednesday's tender which was relatively expensive at the minimum offered price of £97.50 per cent, dealers said.

STC declined 8p to 192, having dropped 34p Tuesday on its five for one rights issue while Foster Brothers jumped 52p to 190 following a £93.7 million bid from Ward White which eased 7p to 217. Booker McConnell returned to 253 after dipping to 250. Dec Corp, which eased 2p to 208, had until Wednesday to decide whether to renew its bid for Booker.

Banks showed mixed movements of around 2p and insurances were steady around overnight levels, while oils firmed.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.0880/90	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3402/05	Canadian dollars
	3.2885/2900	West German marks
	3.7235/45	Dutch guilders
	2.8005/20	Swiss francs
	65.95/99	Belgian francs
	10.0400/75	French francs
	2022.0/3.5	Italian lire
	262.65/80	Japanese yen
	9.3000/3100	Swedish crowns
	9.4400/4500	Norwegian crowns
	11.7550/7650	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	301.50/302.00	U.S. dollars

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 14, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A daytime to continue with the changes and new beginnings that were commenced yesterday. Later, you must know all your facts and figures since a confusing condition arises.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) The morning is fine for gathering data you need and also to meet with those of great experience in the field which most interests you. **TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)** Make a new plan whereby you can handle responsibilities more easily in the days ahead. Study your obligations.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A fascinating individual will join forces with you in some new venture, so get all the facts and figures connected with it.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Study your regular work more carefully since it is possible to gain greater benefits from it at this time.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A little change in routines will impress your mate with your added devotion now, even if things don't seem quite right.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Find out what kin want of you and try to please them, even though their ideas are different to your own.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A good day for visiting business pals and personal friends during your spare time and getting good results.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Elevate your consciousness so that you gain large amounts of money instead of small ones.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get personal aims clear in your mind and then you know how to gain them in a positive manner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be with one who has made success in life and get good ideas so that you can do likewise.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Gain the favor of those who can back you in gaining personal aims in the morning. Then later be with good friends.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Give more thought to any civic work you want to do or career affairs and you can get better results now and in the future.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will seem to be immersed with ideas and philosophies quite differently to those in own environment, so give added studies in school that can add to this interest, since your progeny's mind will literally roam the universe. There is much travel in this chart.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, FEB. 15, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Except for the early hours of the morning, today and tonight is certainly no time to engage in any risks or chances or to get involved in any sort of confrontation with any other person.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Do nothing in the outside world that can reflect on your good reputation. This is not a good day to see a bigwig for any favors.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Although you are all fired up to get into new ventures, this is not the right day for such and you could get into much trouble.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Pay your bills and don't get into any important business matters today or you could lose your shirt.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Much care in motion must be exercised today so that you do not cause damage or get into an unfortunate accident.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You are hell-bent on having a good time, but this could cost you a pretty penny now in several ways. Stay on the job and make money.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your mate may be irate so walk away or soothe ruffled feelings instead of responding in kind.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) If you resent some situation at home, don't lose your temper but put up with it for the time being.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Take care you do not annoy associates since you are determined to get things going as you wish them to be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Take care you do not act hastily and use good judgment in the handling of important business matters.

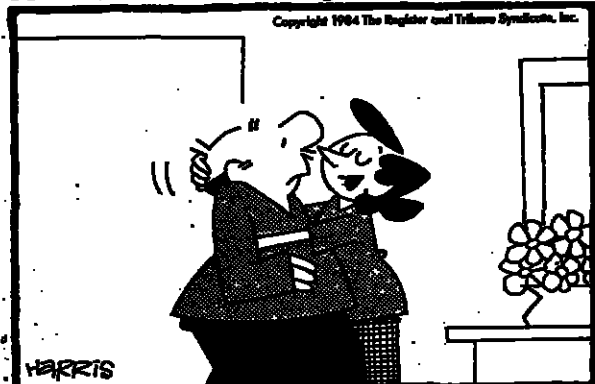
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You are just in the mood for scrapping at every turn today, so calm down and be poised otherwise you can get into big trouble.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Don't do anything drastic because you think that your business affairs are not going right.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A day to do whatever will gain you the personal goals that are dear to your heart, so forget your friends awhile.

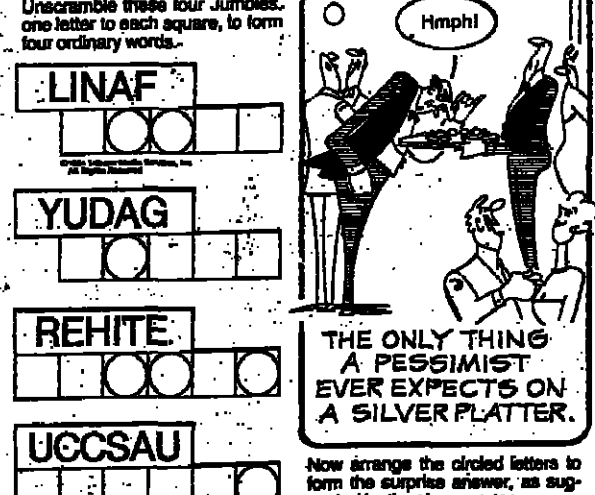
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



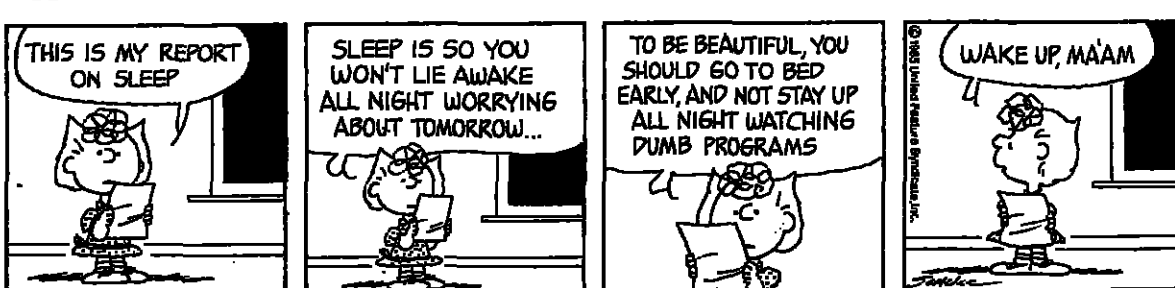
Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

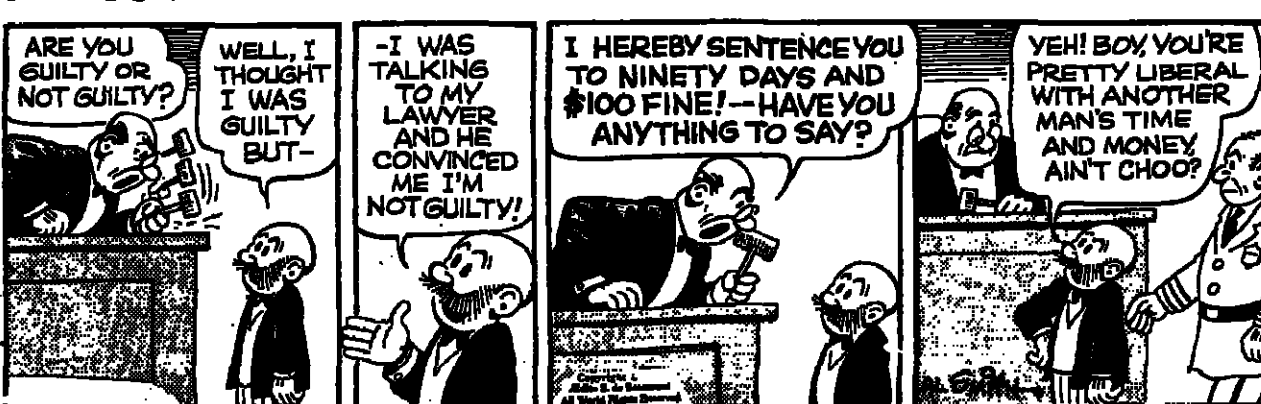
Yesterday's Jumbles: LEAFY, FOUNT, LAWYER, STOLID

Answer: What the geologist who specialized in earthquakes was — A "FAULT" FINDER

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Kim hails opposition successes, urges talks on Korean democracy

SEOUL (R) — After major opposition successes in national elections, leading dissident Kim Dae-jung called on the South Korean government Wednesday to start talks on a full restoration of democracy and warned of social unrest if it did not.

"The day of the rubber stamp opposition is gone," Mr. Kim declared.

The Democratic Justice Party (DJP) of President Chun Doo Hwan won Tuesday's elections handsily but a new party backed by Mr. Kim swept the major cities and the DJP's National Assembly strength was cut by three seats.

Official results from the country's 92 constituencies, each of which returned two candidates, gave the DJP 87 seats, and Mr. Kim's New Korean Democratic Party (NKDP) 50.

Under a controversial indirect system distributing additional seats, the DJP will have 148 members in the 276-seat assembly and the NKDP will be the second strongest party with 67.

Mr. Kim told reporters at his home, where he has been confined since returning from exile in the United States last Friday, that he

was surprised at the scale of the NKDP success.

"Even though I believed the NKDP might gain a strong base, I didn't expect such an enormous victory," said Mr. Kim, who is not officially a member of the party as he is banned from politics.

He renewed his call on Mr. Chun to open a dialogue about full democracy with himself and two other top opposition figures banned from political activities.

Referring to the government, he said "I hope they can learn the lesson from this election. If they don't they will pay the price. There will be no more stability, there will be more demonstrations by students and labourers."

Mr. Kim said any protests should be peaceful. "But how can we guarantee there will be no social disturbances?"

He reiterated that he was pre-

pared to cooperate with Mr. Chun, a former general who has promised to step down in 1988, and was ready to promote moderation and non-violence.

Mr. Kim returned from exile to a stormy airport reception during which he alleged he was kicked and punched by security guards. He said the election results made him feel safer since "nobody can now deny that our people support me."

The rise of the NKDP ended the role of the Democratic Korean Party (DKP) as the leading opposition party. The DKP slumped from its 1981 election total of 81 seats to only 35.

Mr. Kim said he was confident that other opposition leaders would back his aim of uniting them all into a single party as soon as he and other banned leaders were free to operate again.

He said he hoped the government would ease the restrictions on him in the next few days, but administration officials have given no indication so far that the ban would be lifted in the near future.

Mr. Kim told Reuters by telephone: "This election clearly reflects the aspirations of our people for democracy."

Mr. Kim, who had described the elections as mere window dressing Tuesday, was clearly enthused by the performance of the new opposition party.

Analysis said they expected the final DJP total to be 149. The NKDP and other parties also receive a number of indirect seats so that the NKDP could end up with about 67 seats in the assembly.

Another leading dissident, Kim Young-Sam, said in a statement: "With this turning point, the administration should now be repentant and take steps towards democratisation that could be clearly understood by the people."

Both Kims and other dissidents have called for a free press, the lifting of political bans on themselves and 13 other politicians, and a new constitution under which presidential elections will be by direct vote of the people rather than by an electoral college.

10,000 more civilians flee from Kampuchea

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand (R) — Another 10,000 Kampuchean civilians have moved across the Thai border as Vietnamese forces launch attacks on Khmer Rouge strongholds in Western Kampuchea, Thai military sources said Wednesday.

They said the people began entering Thailand Tuesday night from Phnom Malai, a 400 square kilometre mountainous area of camps and bases for about 10,000 guerrillas.

About 6,500 Thai villagers from the border area had also been evacuated to safer locations while Thai forces went on full alert, the sources said.

They said the Vietnamese shelled Phnom Malai mountain with about 20 artillery pieces but failed to dislodge the guerrillas.

Thai military officials said about 18,000 Vietnamese troops backed by tanks and armoured personnel carriers were advancing on guerrilla hideouts in the rugged jungle area.

The sources said Vietnamese ground troops began a northward advance against Khmer Rouge guerrillas Tuesday night after an intense artillery barrage which forced more than 30,000 Kampucheans to flee into Thailand.

Vietnamese artillery opened fire on hundreds of guerrillas trying to seize two Vietnamese tanks three kilometres from the Thai village of Khlong Nam Sai south of Aranyaprathet, the sources said. Casualties were not immediately known.

Radio Hanoi, monitored in Bangkok, said about 300 Kampuchean guerrillas were killed in attacks against several bases along the Thai-Kampuchean border from Feb. 1 to 7.

The Khmer Rouge is the dominant force in the U.N.-recognised Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk which is fighting to drive the Vietnamese out of Kampuchea.

Greek premier stirs growing anger in NATO

BRUSSELS (R) — A tide of anger is growing within NATO at Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu but officials admit they are at a loss to know how to deal with the outspoken Socialist leader.

Mr. Papandreu declared in Moscow this week that Greece and the Soviet Union held "corresponding views" on many issues and used a Kremlin banquet to attack fellow NATO member Turkey, which he says is the main threat to Greek security.

Since taking office in 1981 promising eventual withdrawal from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, he has described the United States as the "metropolis of imperialism", denounced NATO nuclear policy and vowed to close American bases and remove U.S. nuclear weapons from Greece.

Mr. Papandreu's Pasok Socialist government has boycotted NATO exercises and frequently disrupted alliance business by raising disputes with Turkey over the Aegean Sea and Cyprus.

"I don't think people at this stage feel the time has come to throw the Greeks out of the alliance but Papandreu is certainly losing more and more friends," a

NATO official said. "Up to now the NATO nations have shown remarkable restraint, but if the level of irresponsibility grows, people's patience is going to reach a limit," he said.

NATO analysts fear Mr. Papandreu's anti-Western rhetoric will increase in the campaign for next October's general election.

"If Papandreu thinks he can win extra votes by hitting at NATO he'll do it," a Brussels-based Pasok official said.

NATO officials say they have tended to assume the Greek leader's outbursts were meant for domestic consumption and that Athens remained a loyal, if often difficult, ally.

They did not wish to push Greece into a closer relationship with Moscow by over-reacting to Mr. Papandreu's behaviour.

"Things are bad on NATO's southern flank now, but you can imagine how much worse they would be if those were Soviet bases instead of American bases in Greece?" one official said.

But many NATO aides are concerned at the long-term effects of Mr. Papandreu's anti-NATO tilt and at blossoming Greek-Soviet cooperation.

COLUMNS 7&8

Prostitutes hold international convention

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — An international convention of prostitutes opened here Wednesday, aimed at establishing a worldwide organisation to promote their civil rights. The convention plans to issue a "world charter for prostitutes' rights," according to Margo St. James, a California-based activist ex-prostitute who heads Coyote, a California-based advocacy group for prostitutes. Ms. St. James, one of the organisers, characterised the convention as an alliance of "the prostitutes and the women's movement here in Holland." "If a woman works as a prostitute, she deserves working rights like any other worker, and she deserves the protection accorded to any other citizen," said another of the organisers, social psychologist Gail Pheterson of the University of Utrecht. Scheduled to attend the convention are more than a hundred prostitutes, ex-prostitutes and prostitutes' right advocates from Belgium, Denmark, West Germany, Sweden, Britain, France, Switzerland, Canada and the Netherlands, as well as advocates representing Thai, Vietnamese and Singaporean prostitutes in Western Europe. The convention comes at a time when a law abolishing the ban on brothels is to be submitted to the Dutch parliament, and is expected to pass.

Row erupts over restoration of theatre

ATHENS (R) — A row has erupted over plans to restore the 2,500-year-old Theatre of Dionysus, the birthplace of drama. More than 100 Greek classical scholars have protested over plans by the Ministry of Culture to restore the theatre, where the works of Sophocles and Aeschylus were first performed, for modern productions of ancient works. They say the site, at the foot of the Acropolis in Athens, is a complex of remains from successive periods and say none can be restored without destroying the others. A senior official at the Ministry of Culture has said that no final decision had been taken to re-use the theatre. The Theatre of Dionysus once seated up to 17,000 people for the annual theatre festival of ancient Athens and some 25 of its 64 tiers of seats are still intact. The Herodes Atticus Theatre built in 160 A.D., which stands beside the Dionysus site, has already been heavily restored, and it hosts summer performances by theatre companies, orchestras and dance troupes.

Japan to enforce new sex industry law

TOKYO (R) — More than 1,000 policemen were mobilised to enforce Japan's new sex industry law which took effect from Tuesday night, a police spokesman said. The new law requires massage parlours, peep shows, strip theatres and porno shops to shut at midnight. The police were paying special attention to Kabuki-cho, Tokyo's most notorious sex-for-sale district as well as other well-known night spots, the spokesman said. The law was passed last year at the urging of residents who want to clean up their neighbourhoods and police who link Japan's booming sex businesses with a rise in juvenile crime. The law also restricts certain types of new sex business to specific zones, allows police more freedom to check for violations and limits entry by minors.

Film director Henry Hathaway dies

LOS ANGELES (R) — Henry Hathaway, who directed more than 60 films, including the Desert Fox and the Lives of a Bengal Lancer, has died at the age of 86, a hospital spokesman has said. Hathaway, a child actor who began his career as a director in 1932 by making low budget Westerns starring Randolph Scott, had been undergoing treatment in a Los Angeles hospital after suffering a heart attack two weeks ago. He directed True Grit, the 1969 film that won an Oscar for its star, John Wayne. He also directed Wayne in Sons of Katie Elder and North to Alaska. Hathaway is survived by his wife of 53 years, Blanche, and a son.

Tanaka mends rift in political faction

TOKYO (R) — Japan's political filmmaker Kakuei Tanaka and his followers Wednesday healed a serious rift within his faction of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, the party's most influential group.

Former Prime Minister Tanaka's grip on his 119 parliamentary supporters wavered last week when Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita suggested forming a study group of 40 within the group.

Political sources, who saw the move as a prelude to Mr. Takeshita forming a breakaway

group, said it was important because Mr. Tanaka's faction was a foundation of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's administration.

Mr. Tanaka faction sources said Mr. Tanaka agreed to the setting up of the study group provided it did not become a focus of power.

Political analysts said Mr. Takeshita mustered his supporters in frustration at Mr. Tanaka's refusal to name a candidate to stand in the event of a party presidential election.

The presidency carries with it

post of prime minister, but Mr. Tanaka's name cannot be put forward because he has officially quit the party.

Mr. Tanaka was convicted in October 1983 of taking a \$2 million bribe from the U.S. Lockheed Aircraft Corporation. His appeal is pending.

Dubbed Japan's shadow Shogun, Mr. Tanaka still uses widespread patronage to maintain his political power as head of the faction, but the political sources said the heal in the rift with Mr. Takeshita might be only temporary.

Canadian defence minister resigns

OTTAWA (R) — The Canadian government has been jolted by the abrupt resignation of Defence Minister Robert Coates amid allegations he visited a West German nightclub featuring nude dancers and pornographic films.

Mr. Coates resigned Tuesday, shortly after the Ottawa Citizen published a story alleging Canadian security rules may have been breached by his visit to the club last November.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney accepted the resignation after assuring the House of Commons he had looked into the matter and determined there had been no threat to national security interests.

The incident, according to the newspaper report, occurred during a four-country NATO trip by the minister and his aides.

The report said Mr. Coates spent about two hours drinking and chatting with a stripper while two aides disappeared with two women to another part of a club identified as Tiffany's, in Lahr, West Germany.

In his brief resignation statement, Mr. Coates told the hushed parliament he was innocent of allegations that Canadian security was breached and that he has begun legal action against the newspaper, which published the charges Tuesday.

Mr. Coates, 56, did not deny being in the club, only the allegation that his presence may have posed a security risk.

"An article published Wednesday in an Ottawa paper contains many inaccuracies and those inaccuracies are wrong and libellous to even suggest a breach of security," he said.

"I also recognise the fundamental importance of my portfolio, one which is as sensitive as any in government."

More poisoned candies found in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Japan's cyanide candy extortion gang planted more poisoned sweets on supermarket shelves on the eve of Valentine's Day when women here like to send candy to men in a secret expression of love.

Nine sweets carrying threatening messages were found in Tokyo and the central Japan city of Nagoya and police said Wednesday five were laced with cyanide.

At least one dose was potentially lethal, they added.

The gang has evaded police for nearly a year and sends taunting notes to the media and food companies signed "the man with 21 faces."

One letter in December dem-

anded 100 million yen (\$380,000) from a food firm and said "St. Valentine will be waiting."

The Osaka office of the Mainichi Shimbun newspaper Wednesday received the gang's latest letter which described the Feb. 14 ritual of women sending sweets as a ridiculous new custom.

Addressed to confectionery firms it said: "You don't care about causing tooth decay and diabetes. You only care if sweets sell well."

Candy sales in the first two weeks of February usually amount to about 10 per cent of the industry's annual sales.

The sweets found Wednesday were made by five firms including

two new targets for the gang, Meiji Seika Kaisha, the nation's biggest maker, and the Lotte Company.

Meiji Seika's shares fell on the Tokyo Stock Market, followed by some other sweet makers.

Last March the gang kidnapped the president of one sweet company, Ezaki Glico, while he was

naked in his bathroom.

It demanded a ransom of one billion yen (\$3.8 million) but the president escaped.

In mid-January after a self-proclaimed new year holiday, the gang said in one of its letters: "This year we intend to collect 1.3 billion yen (\$4.9 million)."

The gang is not known to have received any payments so far.

Uruguayans celebrate end of military rule

MONTEVIDEO (R) — Thousands of cheering Uruguayans took to the streets to celebrate the end of 11 years of military rule, ignoring a warning by the armed forces that they might step in again.

Demonstrators banged pots and pans and set off fireworks at a rally in central Montevideo after the Council of State, the military government's legislative body, accepted the resignations of President Gregorio Alvarez and his ministers.

There was no immediate reaction to the statement by army chief Gen. Hugo Medina that the military would seize power again, as it did in 1973, if the country slipped into chaos.

The council of state named Sup-

reme Court Head Rafael Adiego as interim president until centre-right President-Elect Julio Sanguinetti, who won elections last Nov. 25, takes office on March 1. Parliament is due to convene on Friday.

The military government's formal resignation was tendered amid strict security, with a cordon of riot police and mounted troops thrown around parliament and the presidential palace.

Minutes after the ceremony, Gen. Medina told a news conference the military was not thinking about a new coup and did not wish to stage one.

"But if we are forced and the same causes arise as in 1973, we will not hesitate to do so," he said.

On that occasion, the armed forces shattered Uruguay's democratic traditions when they stepped in after crushing the leftist Tupamaro Guerrillas, saying the country was in economic and political chaos.

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